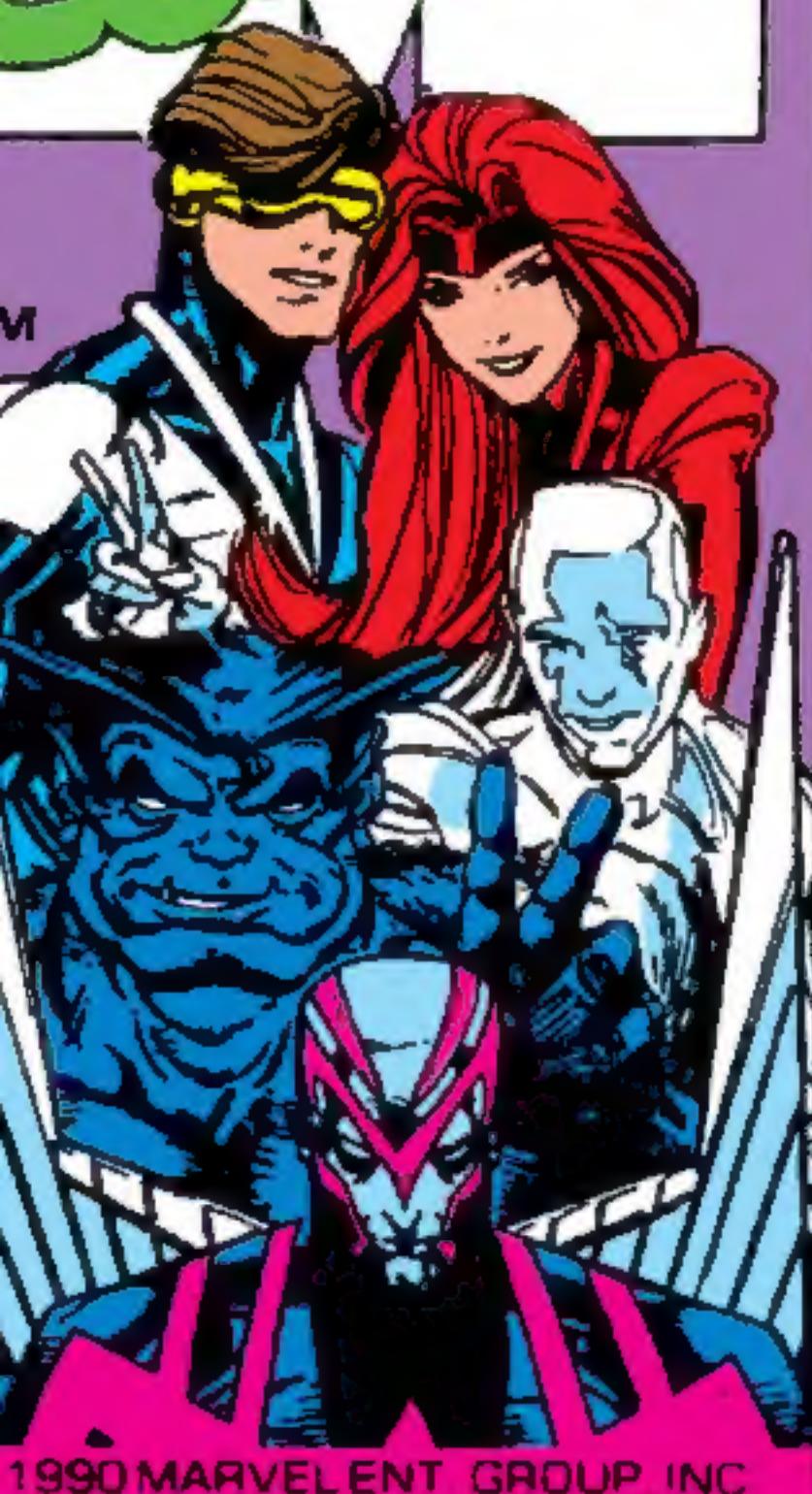


MARVEL®  
COMICS



# X-TINCTION AGENDA

PART 9



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FINAL  
STRIKE

# X-TINCTION AGENDA



JIM  
LEE

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STAN LEE  
PRESENTS

THE FINAL  
CHAPTER  
IN THE  
X-TEAM'S  
GREATEST  
CRISIS

LOUISE  
SIMONSON  
WRITER  
JON  
BOGDANOVA  
PENCILLER  
ALLEN  
MILGROM  
INKER  
TASK  
FORCE Z<sup>2</sup>  
LETTERERS  
GLYNIS  
OLIVER  
COLORIST  
BOB  
HARRAS  
EDITOR  
TOM  
DEFALCO  
EDITOR-IN-  
CHIEF

THE CITADEL, HEADQUARTERS OF GENOSHA STATE SECURITY. FROM ITS OFFICES, THIS ISLAND NATION IS GOVERNED, WHILE ITS LABORATORIES PRODUCE BIO-ENGINEERED SLAVES WHOSE EFFORTS INSURE GENOSHA'S PROSPERITY.

CABLE SAID  
CHECK THESE  
UPPER FLOORS  
FOR HODGE  
WHILE HE AND  
STORM CHECK  
THOSE BELOW.

NOW TWO MUTANTS, RICTOR AND RAHNE SINCLAIR STALK THE CITADEL'S DARKENED CORRIDORS--THEIR INTENT: TO BRING THE COUNTRY DOWN!

AND IF WE  
FIND HODGE?

WE CALL FOR  
HELP, RAHNE.  
YOU KNOW WE  
CAN'T FACE HODGE  
BY OURSELVES.

YOU SAID  
YOU'D SHAKE  
THE CITADEL  
APART...

I WILL, BUT I CAN'T DO IT  
WITH X-FACTOR AND THE X-MEN  
AND THE REST OF THE NEW  
MUTANTS STILL IN IT, CAN I?

SUDDENLY, CAMERON HODGE, CYBORG ALLY OF GENOSHA'S PRESIDENT, ARCH-ENEMY OF THE MUTANT TEAMS, APPEARS OUT OF THE SHADOWS...

WELL, WELL! TWO OF THE INSECTS WHO DESTROYED MY LAB.

RAHNE! GET BACK!

CABLE! IT'S HODGE! WE'VE FOUND HIM!

STAN LEE PRESENTS

# CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

CALL FOR HELP ALL YOU WANT, GENEJOKE, THERE IS NOTHING CABLE OR ANYONE CAN DO TO SAVE YOU!

HODGE-- GRRRRR--

RAHNE, GET BACK. YOU CAN'T ATTACK HIM SINGLE-HANDED. IT'S SUICIDE!

CABLE-- WE'VE GOT A SITUATION HERE!

AND, ON LEVELS BELOW, CABLE, LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS AND STORM, LEADER OF THE X-MEN, LISTEN VIA A TRANSMITTER...

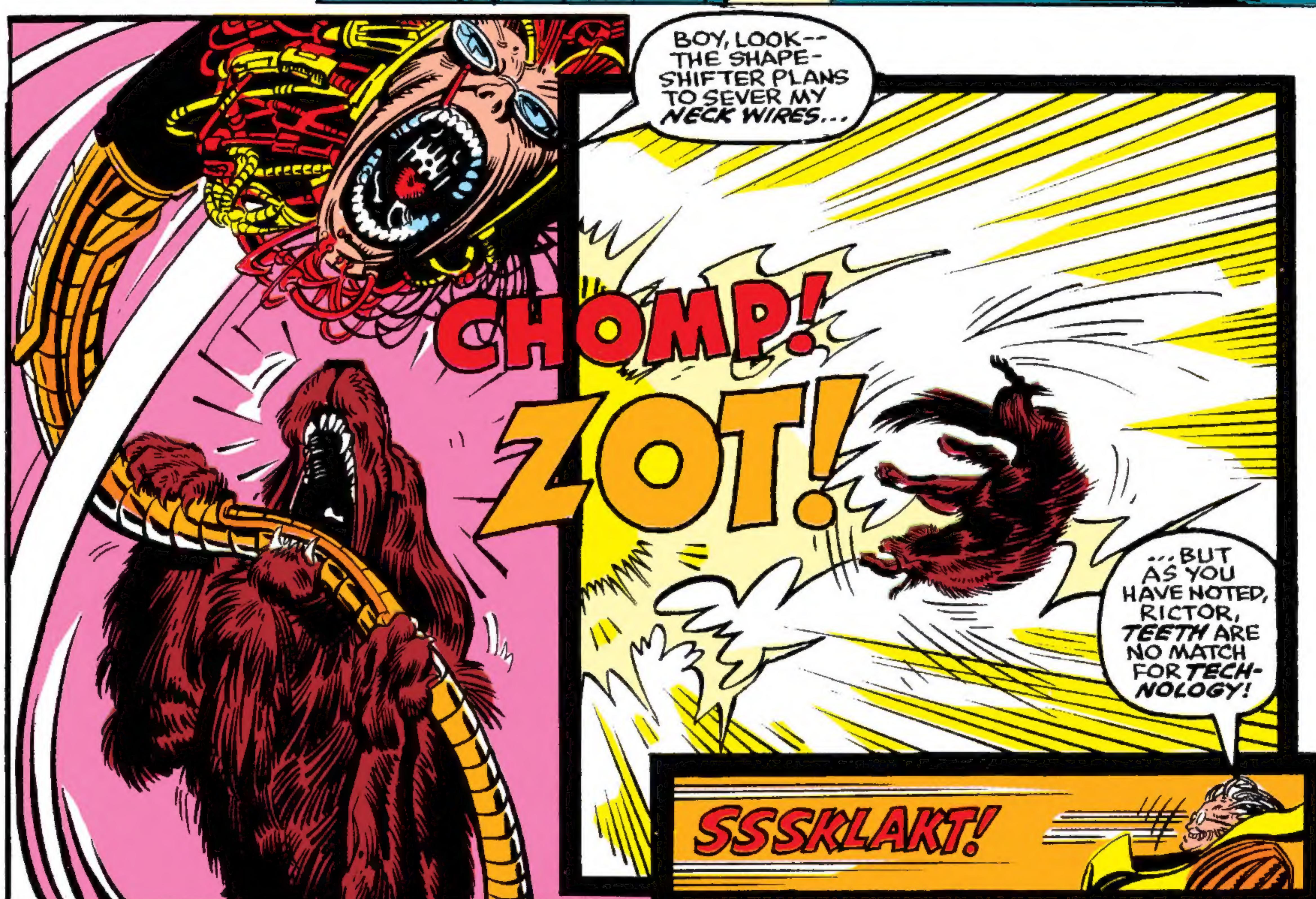
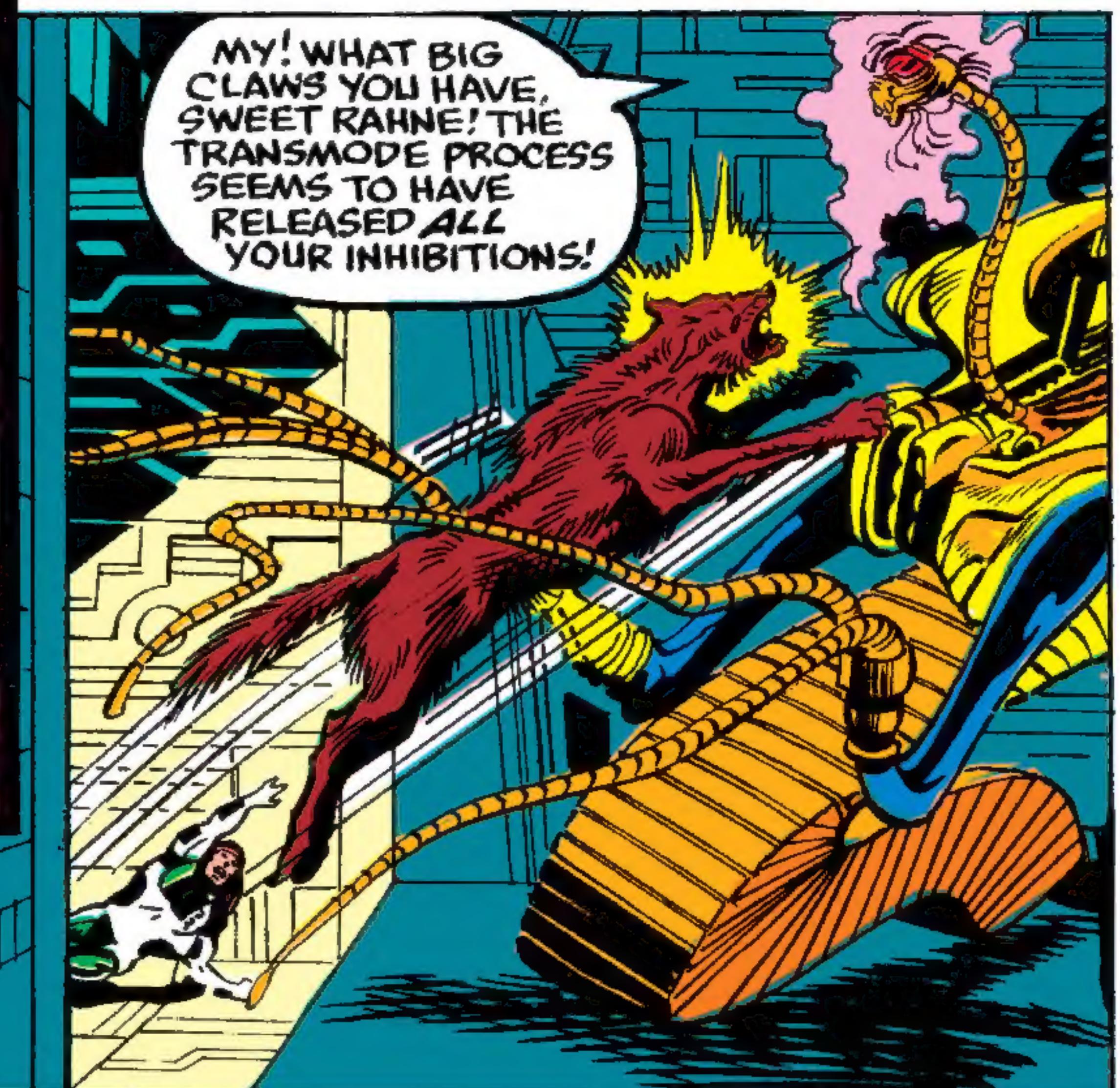
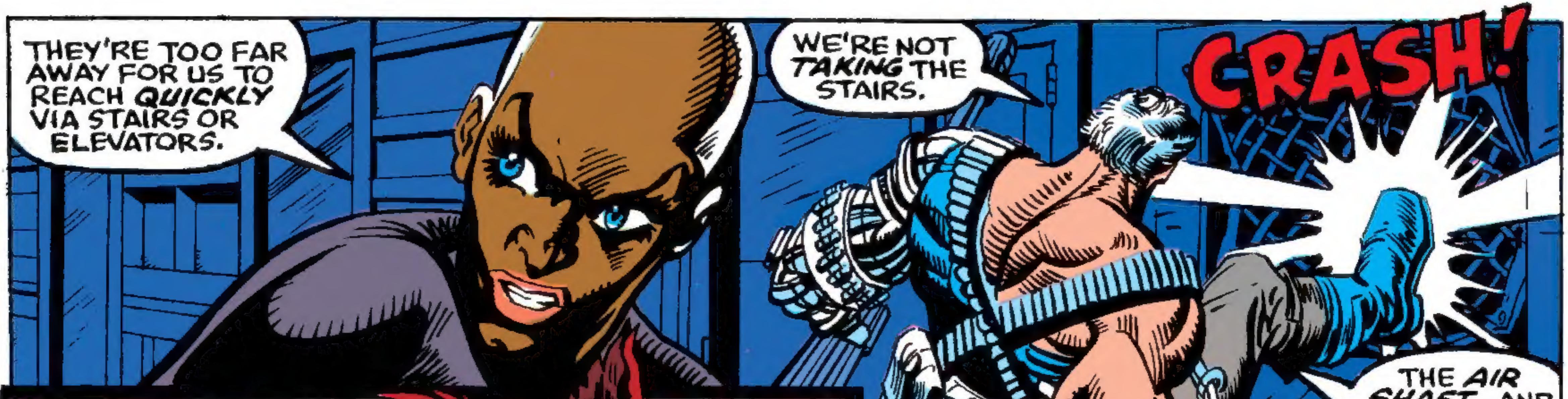
RIC, TRY TO CONTROL HER! WE'LL BE THERE!

RAHNE'S NOT LISTENING, STORM.

THE GENE-GINEER CHANGED HER, CABLE. SHE'S NO LONGER THE GENTLE, OBEDIENT GIRL WE KNEW.

I FEAR IN HER WOLF-GIRL FORM, SHE NO LONGER THINKS QUITE RATIONALLY, AND SHE LOATHES HODGE.

WITH GOOD REASON.



AND TECHNOLOGY IS NO MATCH FOR MY SEISMIC POWER!

WHO AM I KIDDING?  
I'VE TRIED THIS BEFORE.  
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN  
TAKE HIM OUT ALONE.

RUMMABLE

ALL THIS  
IS GOING TO  
DO IS GET ME  
BLOWN AWAY,  
TOO, BUT WHAT  
CHOICE HAVE  
I GOT?

... SINCE  
YOU NOW  
PRESENT  
THE MORE  
CHALLENGING  
TARGET.

NEVER THINK YOU'VE  
WON, BOY! I'VE  
DROPPED THE  
GIRL...

AND  
BELOW...

STOP  
HERE!  
INTO THIS  
HORI-  
ZONTAL  
SHAFT!

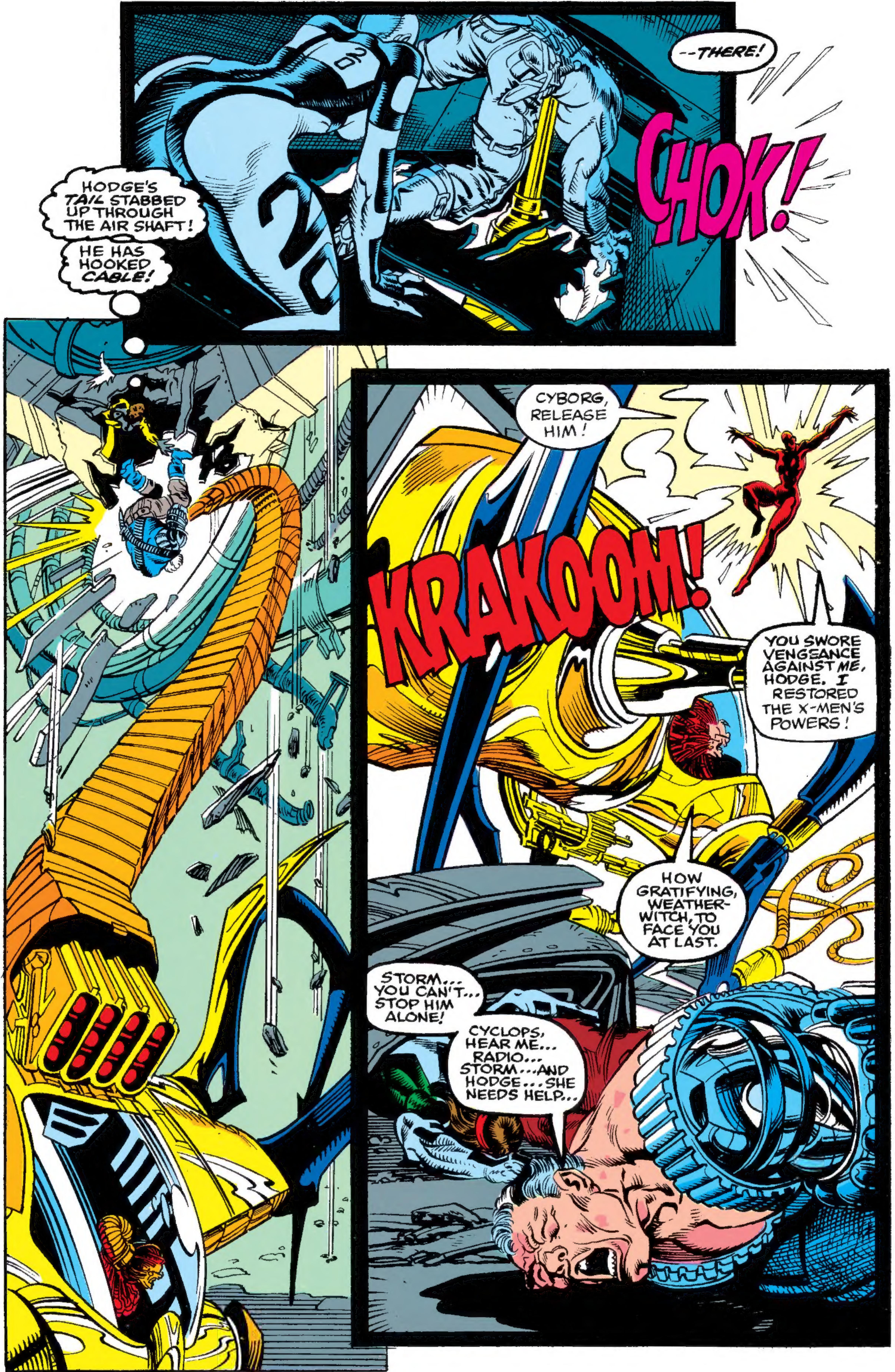
I MEMORIZED THE CITADEL'S  
LAYOUT FROM THE S.H.I.E.L.D.  
DOCUMENTS VAL COOPER  
GAVE US.

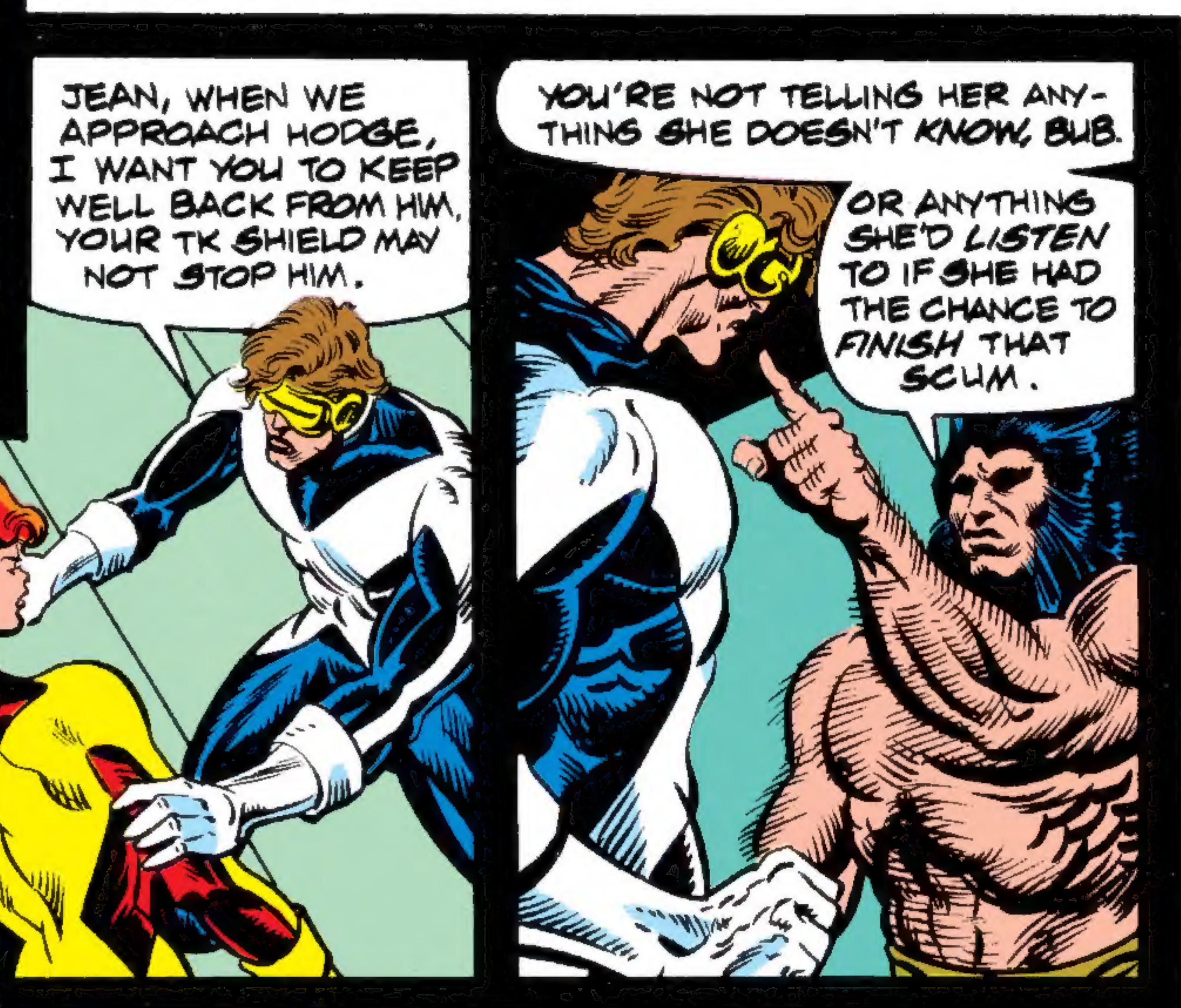
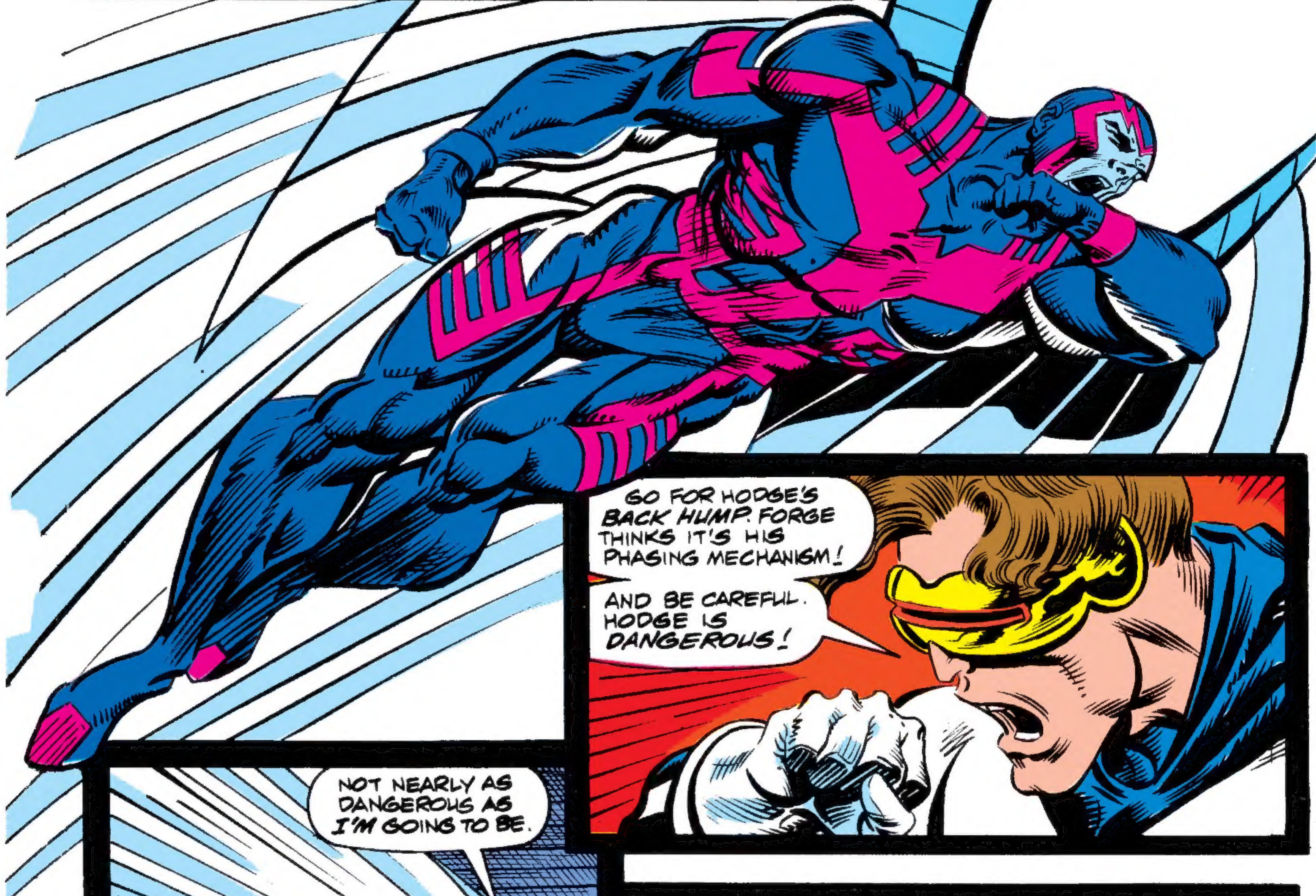
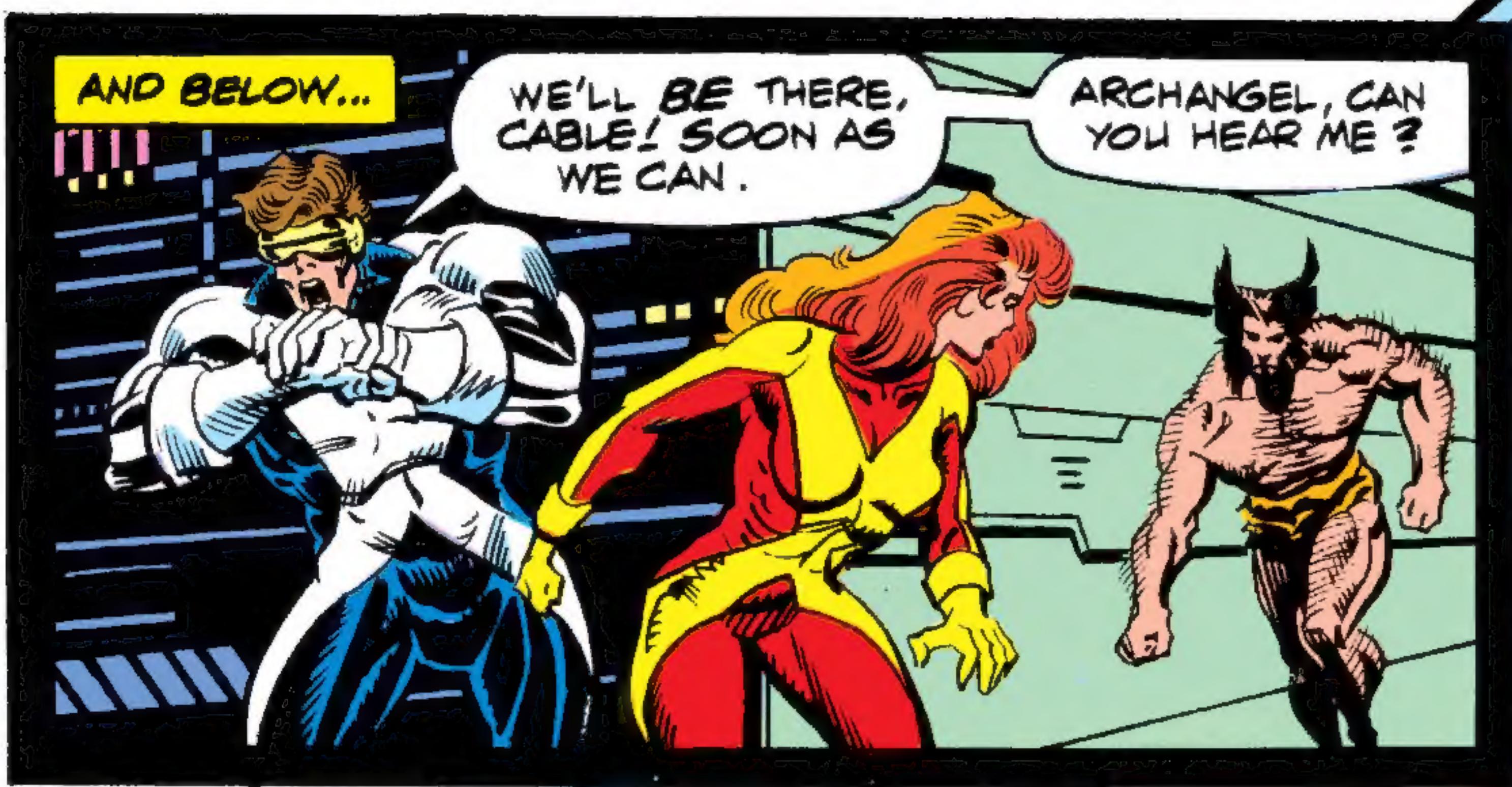
YOU  
KNOW  
WHERE  
WE MUST  
GO?

CABLE,  
DO YOU HEAR?  
THE SOUNDS  
OF BATTLE  
HAVE CEASED.

I HEAR YOU,  
VERMIN, SCUTTLING  
THROUGH THE  
VENTS. I KNOW  
YOU'RE--







BACK OFF, LOGAN.  
THIS IS NONE OF  
YOUR BUSINESS.

WE'RE TEAMMATES.  
THAT MAKES IT  
MY BUSINESS.

SHE'S AS MUCH  
A FIGHTER AS  
YOU ARE AND--

LOGAN'S RIGHT! I'M NOT GOING  
TO HOLD BACK WHEN MY ACTIONS  
CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE... ANY  
MORE THAN YOU WOULD...

...AND I AM PERFECTLY ABLE TO  
SPEAK FOR MYSELF, AND MAKE  
MY OWN CHOICES. IS THAT  
UNDERSTOOD?

HOLD  
IT!

GOOD. NOW COME  
ON, STORM IS  
WAITING.

SHE'S  
SOME  
WOMAN.

THERE'S NOT  
ANOTHER  
LIKE HER.  
AND I'M SO AFRAID  
I MIGHT LOSE HER,  
IT'S MAKING ME ACT  
SOFT IN THE HEAD.

MEANWHILE...

LASERS!

KREEEOW!

ADMIT IT,  
STORM. I HAVE  
YOU BOXED  
INTO THE END  
OF A CORRIDOR...

...INTO A  
SPACE TOO  
SMALL FOR FULL  
UTILIZATION OF  
YOUR POWERS.

SKREEOW!

HE IS  
RIGHT.  
I CANNOT  
MANEUVER  
EASILY  
HERE TO  
CREATE  
WIND  
EFFECTS...

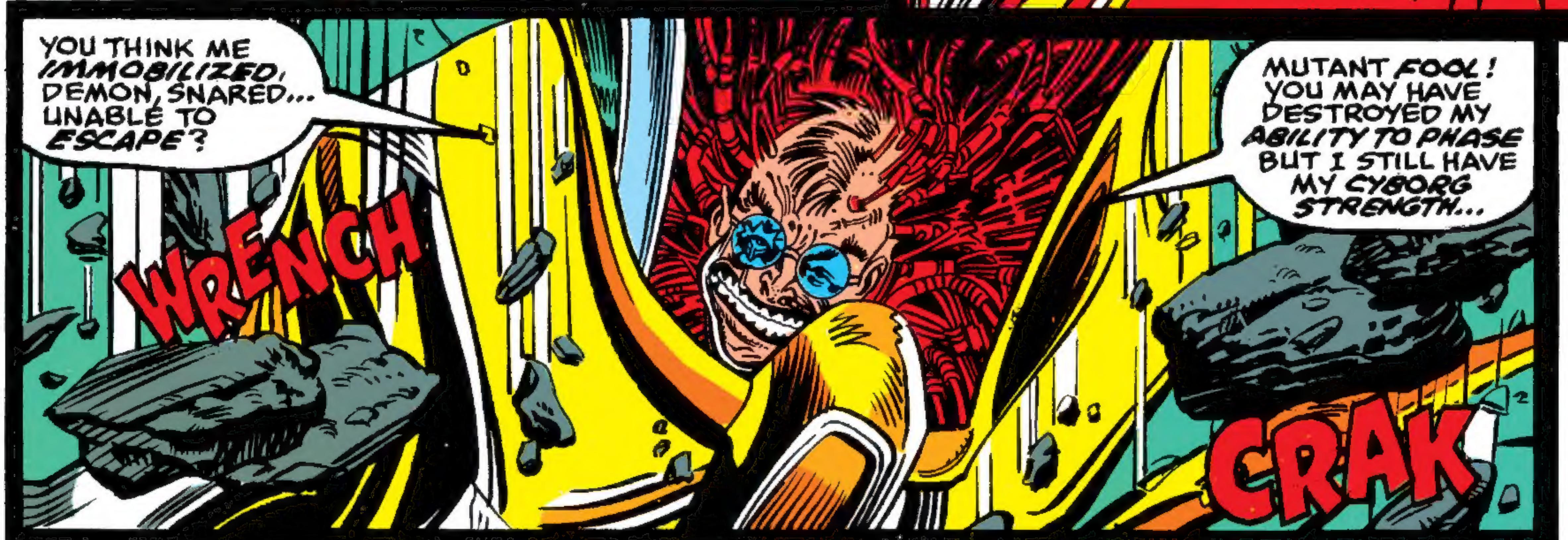
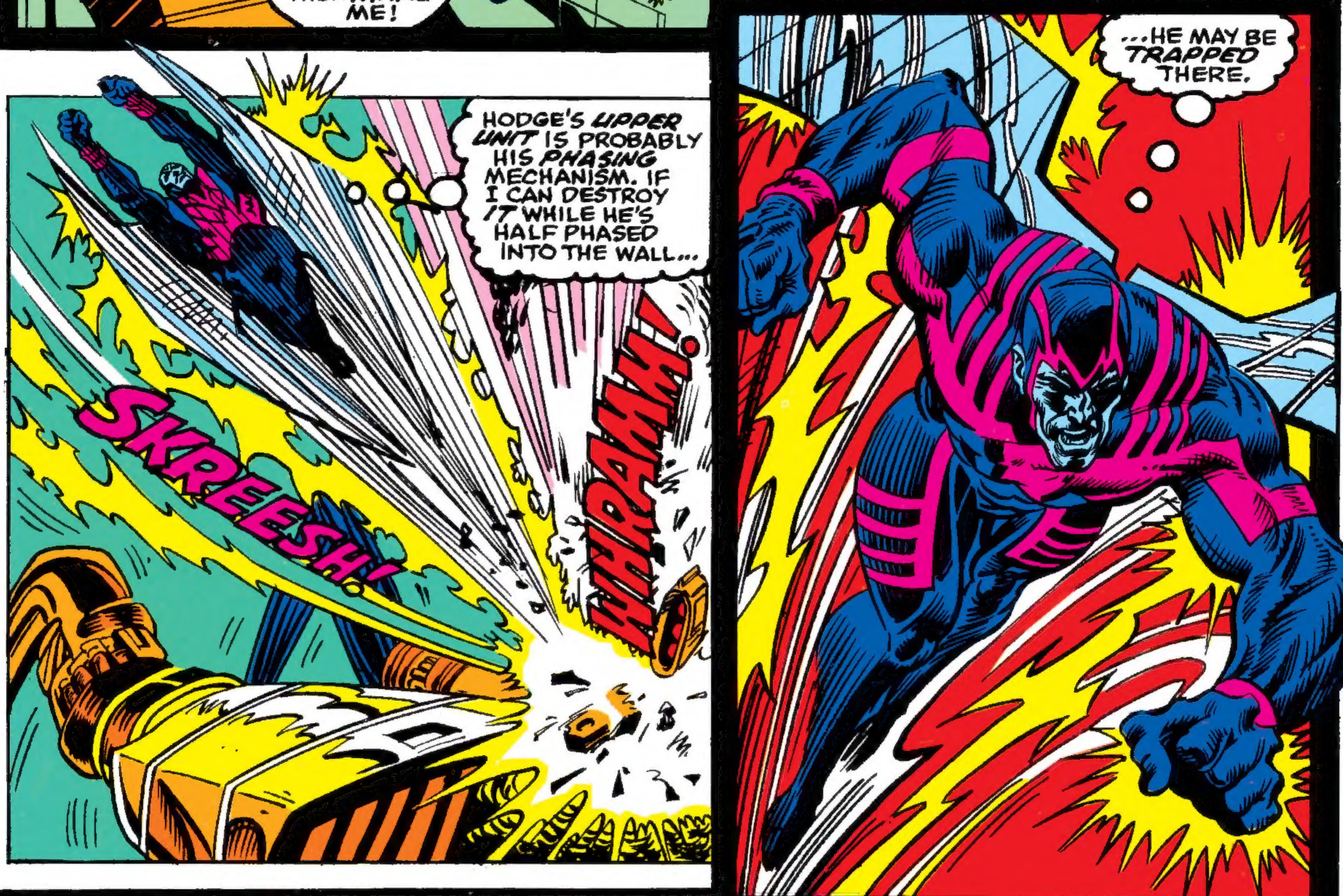
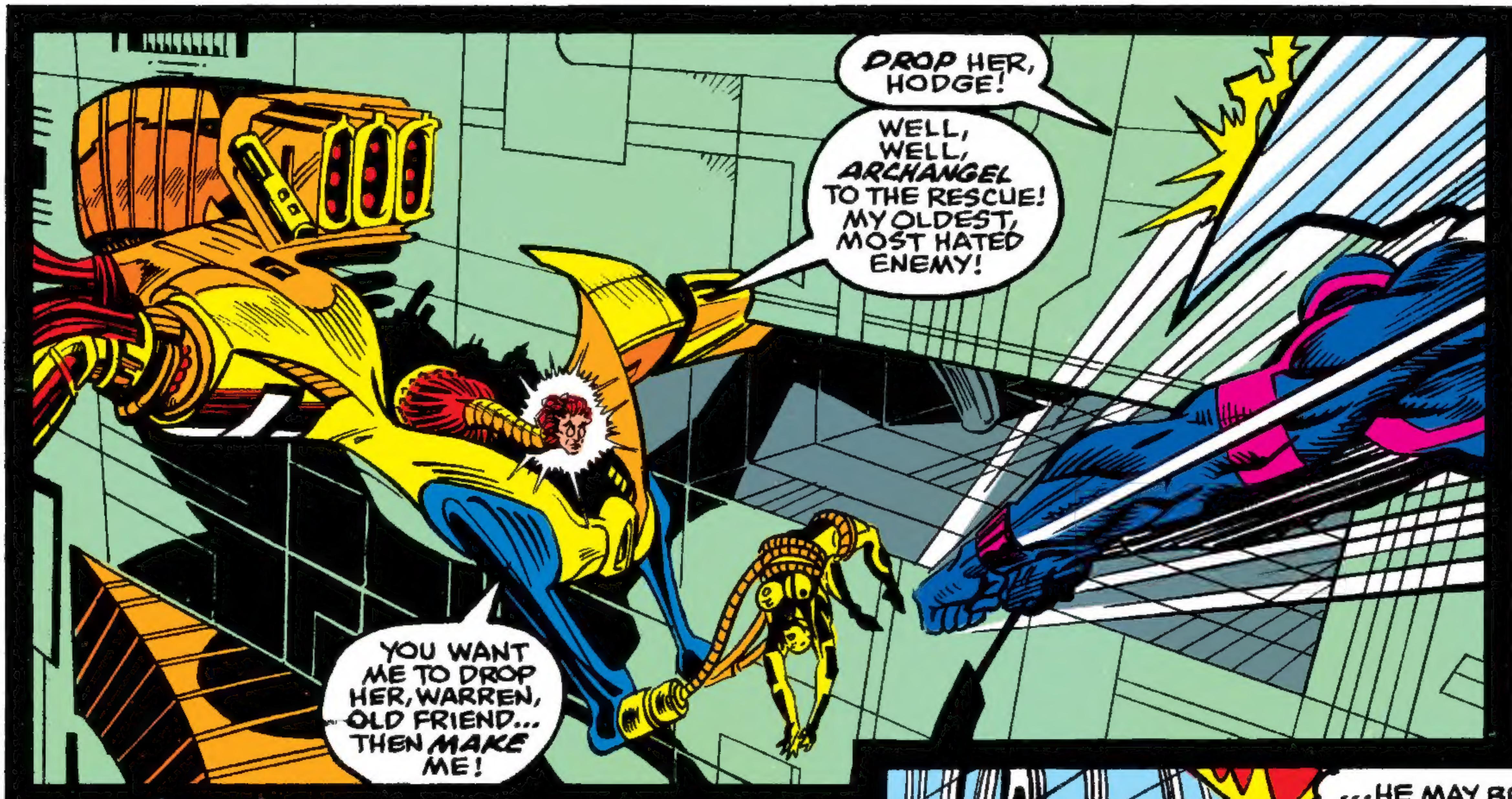
...BUT  
LIGHTNING  
IS ANOTHER  
MATTER!

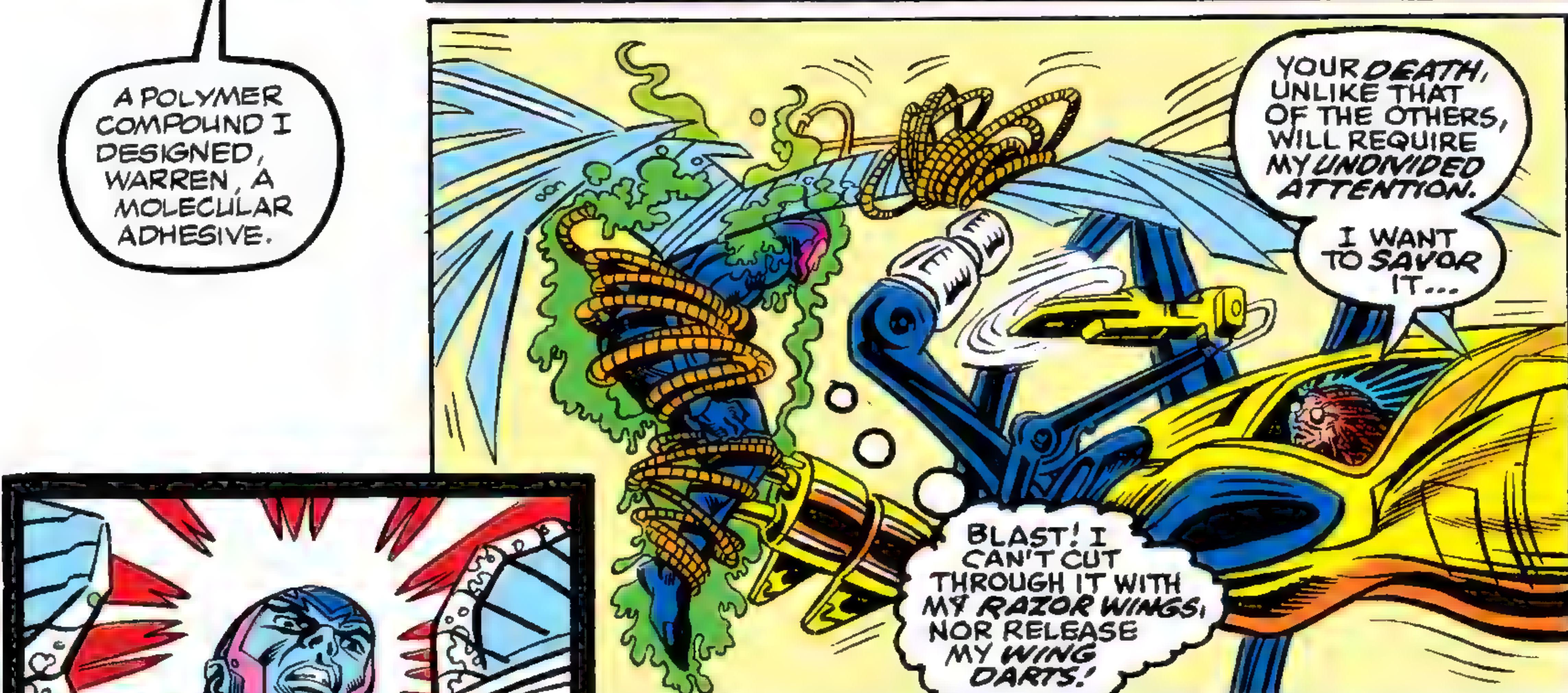
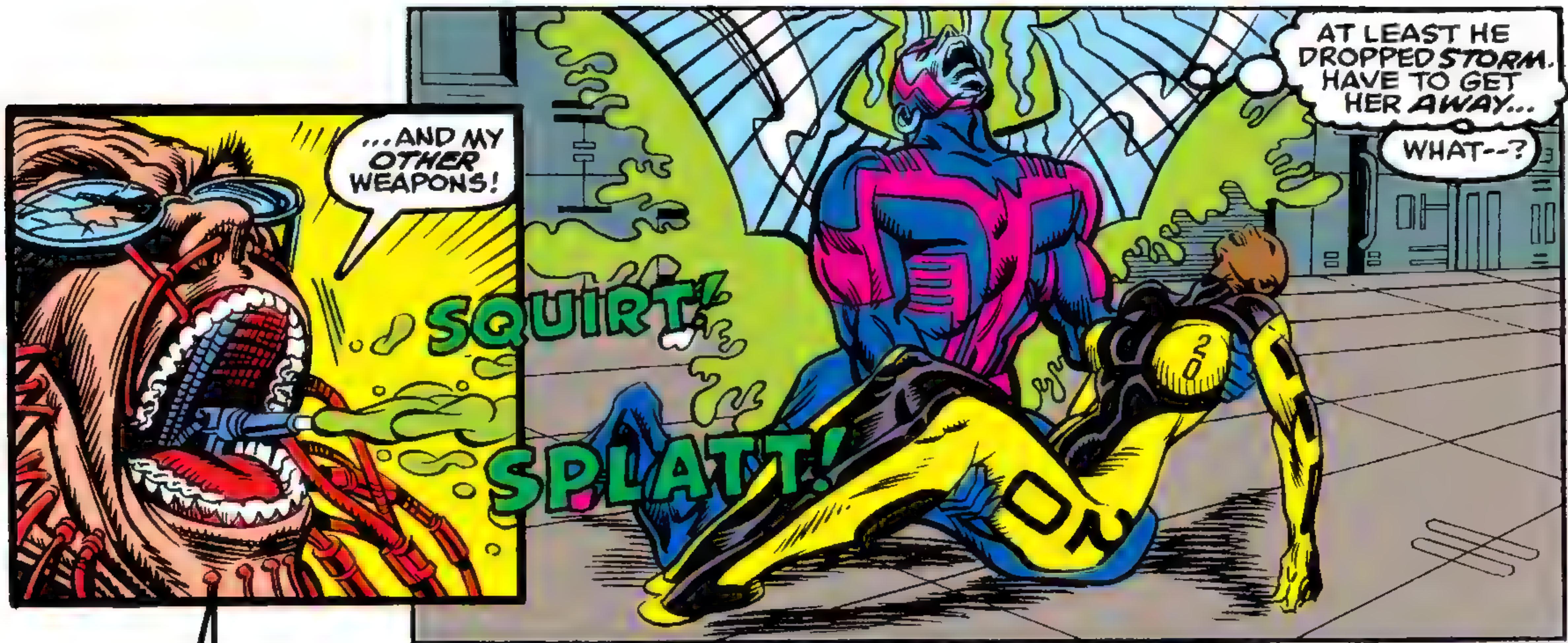
KA-DOOM!

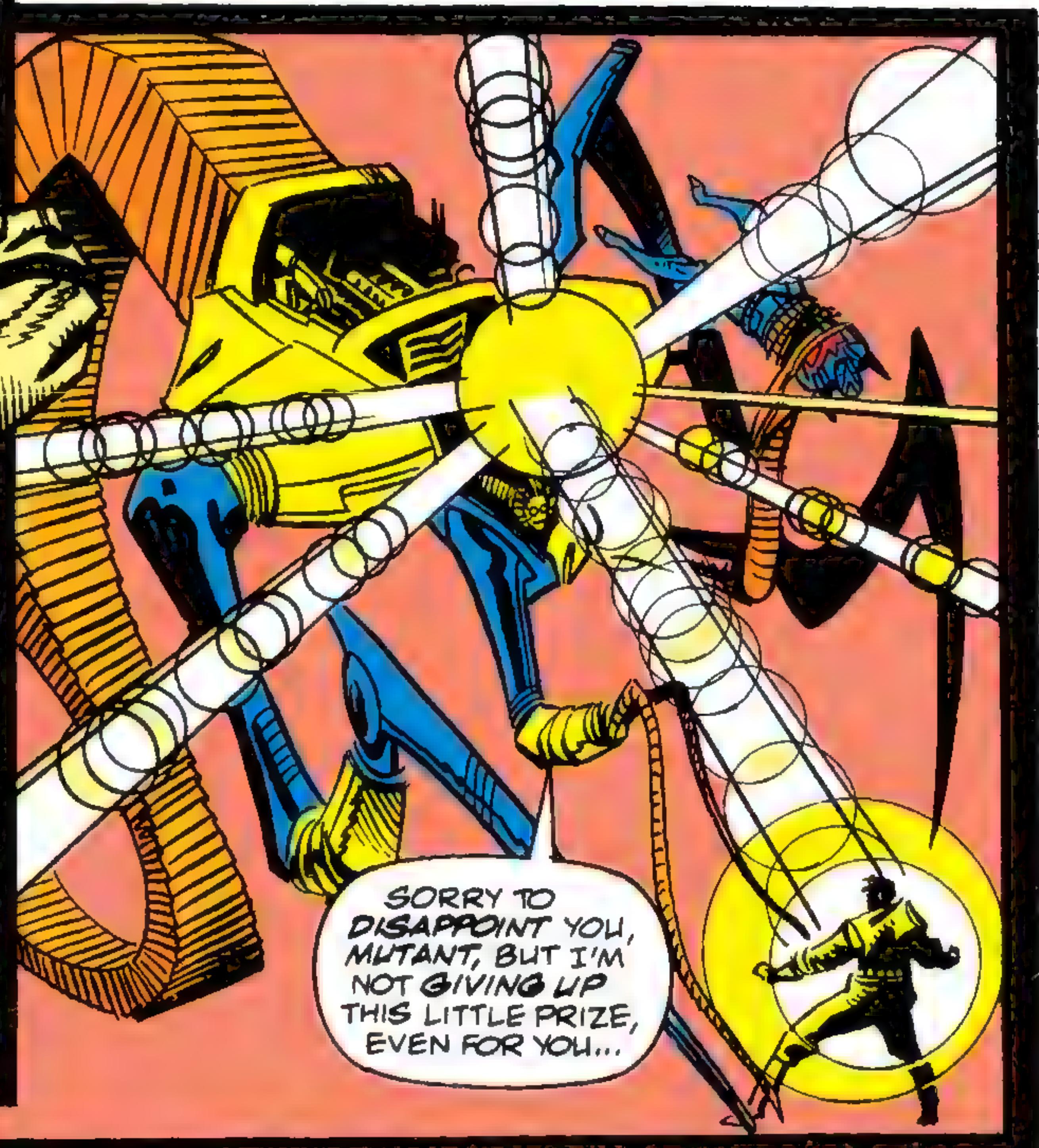
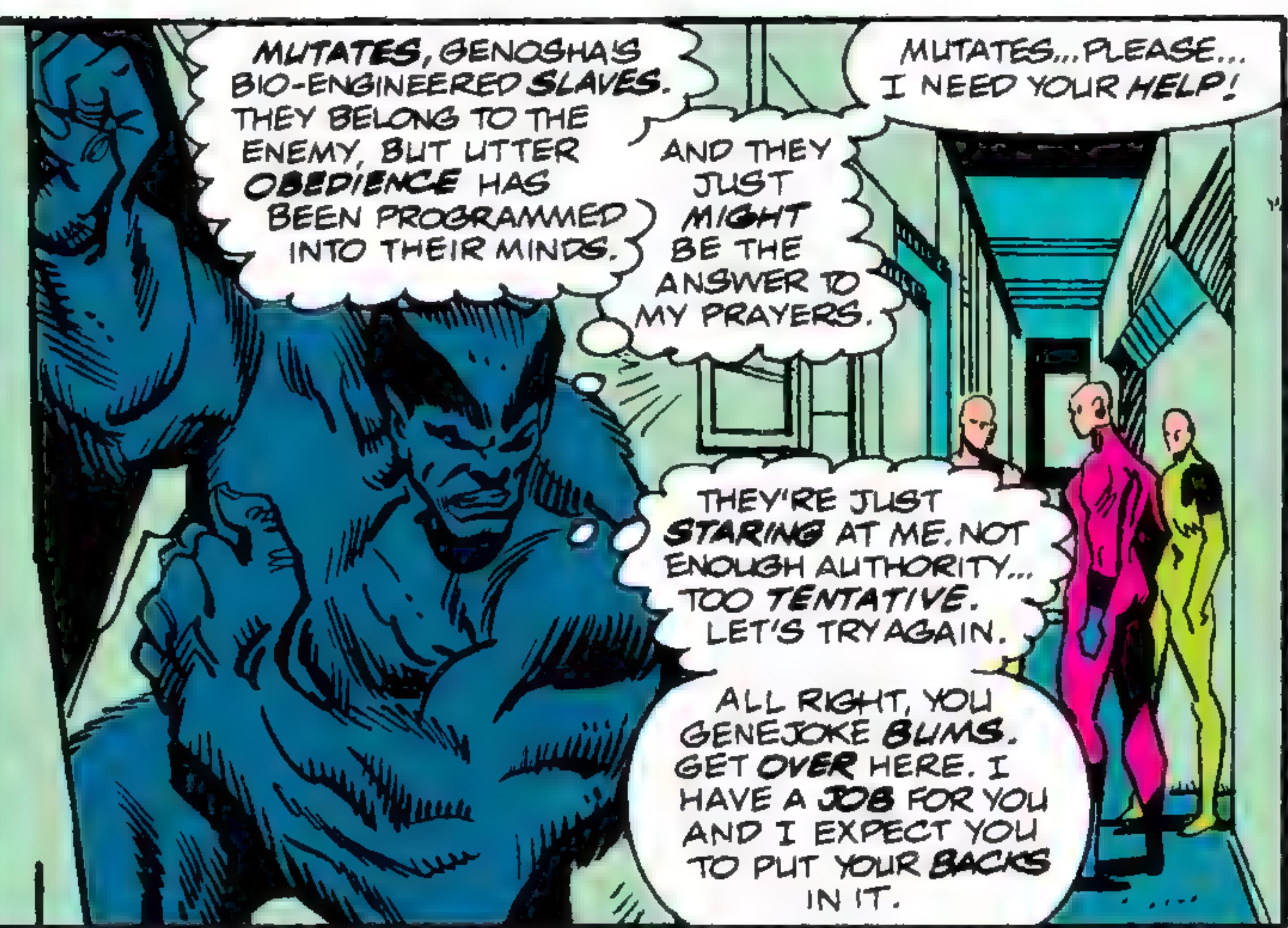
MY LASER GUN  
IS GONE, STORM,  
BUT AS YOU SEE,  
I HAVE OTHER  
OPTIONS FOR YOUR  
DESTRUCTION.

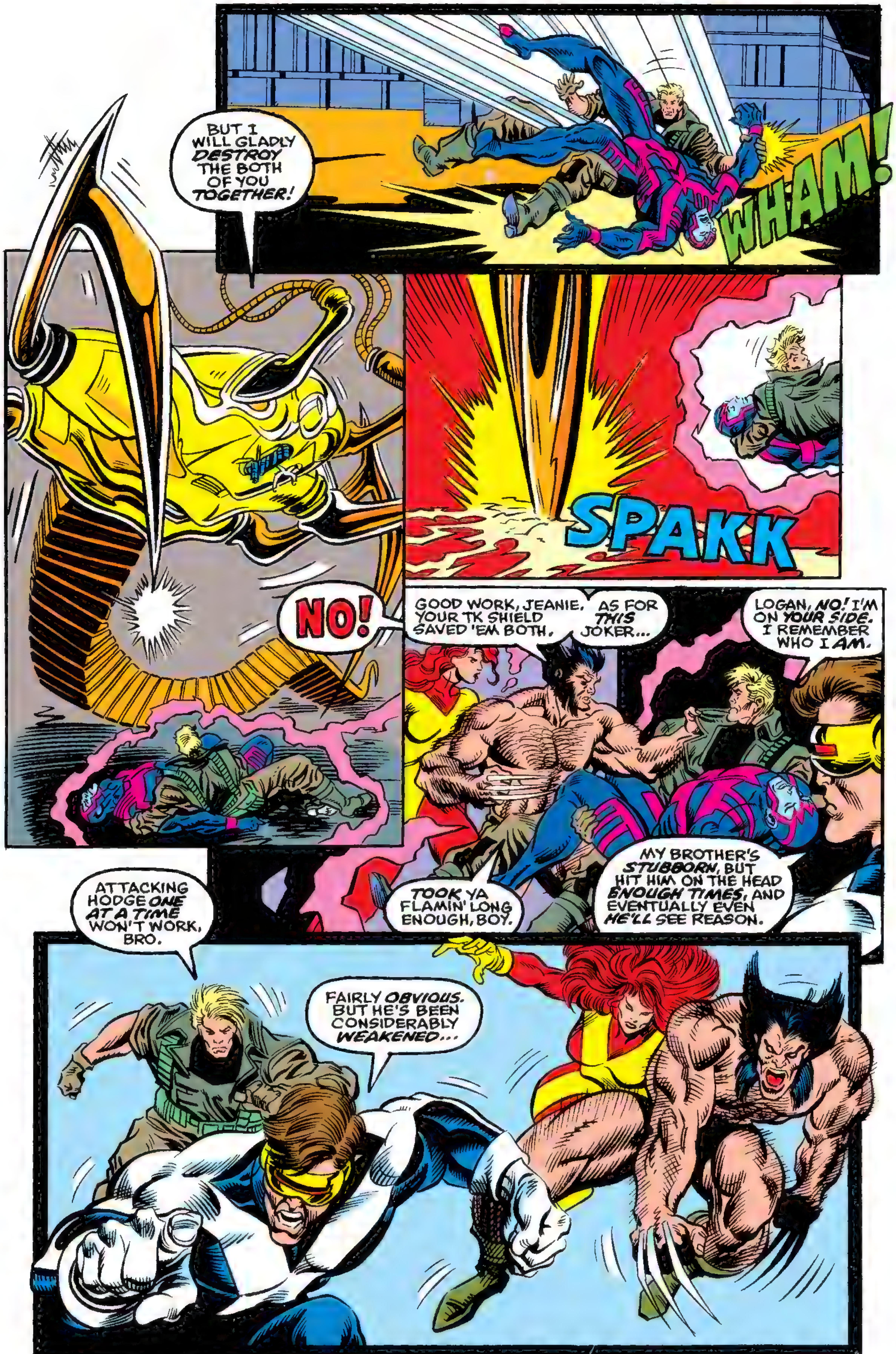
HE HAS PHASED  
INTO THE VENT  
BEHIND ME, AND  
I HAVE EVEN  
LESS ROOM  
HERE.

THERE  
IS NO  
ESCAPE  
FOR YOU!





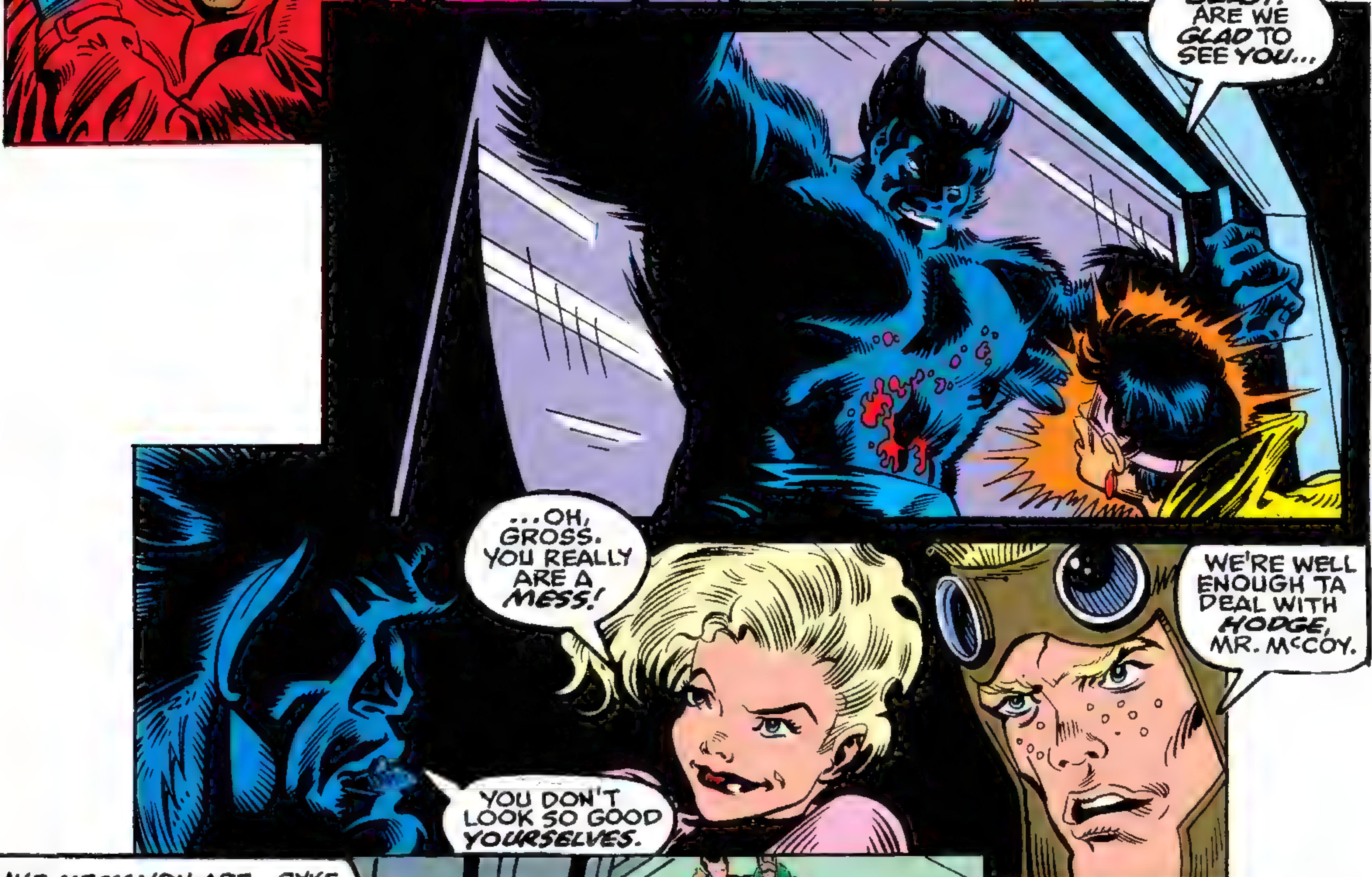
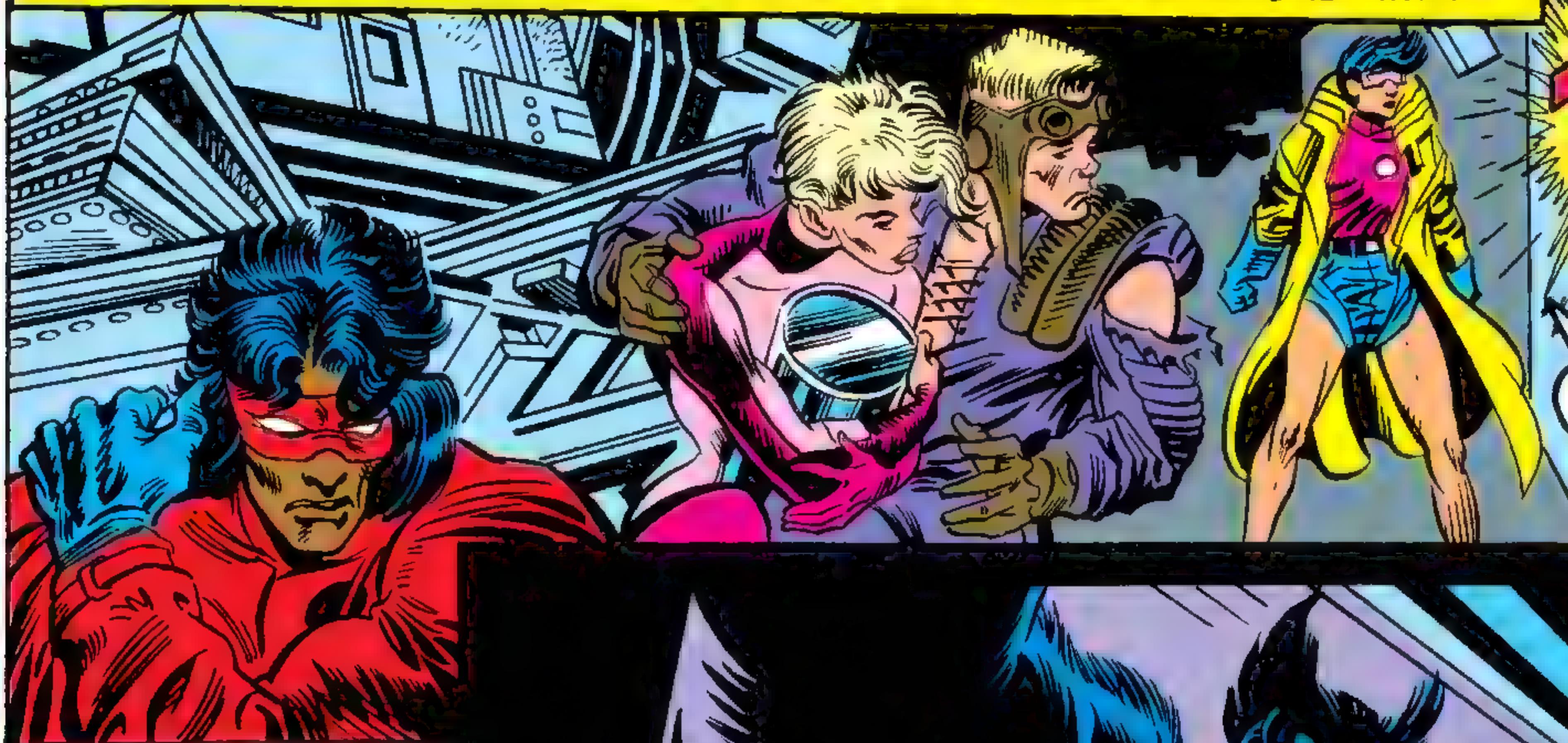






WHILE IN THE BASEMENT, THE BADLY INJURED MUTANTS, SUNSPOT, BOOM-BOOM, CANNONBALL, AND JUBILEE STAGGER FROM HODGE'S DESTROYED LAB WHEN...

THOOOM!



MEANWHILE, FLOORS ABOVE, WOLVERINE'S CLAWS RIP THROUGH HODGE'S TAIL SPIKE...

RRRRAGH!



THAT'S IT, CYKE! KEEP POURIN' IT ON... GET THIS BUM WHERE IT HURTS!

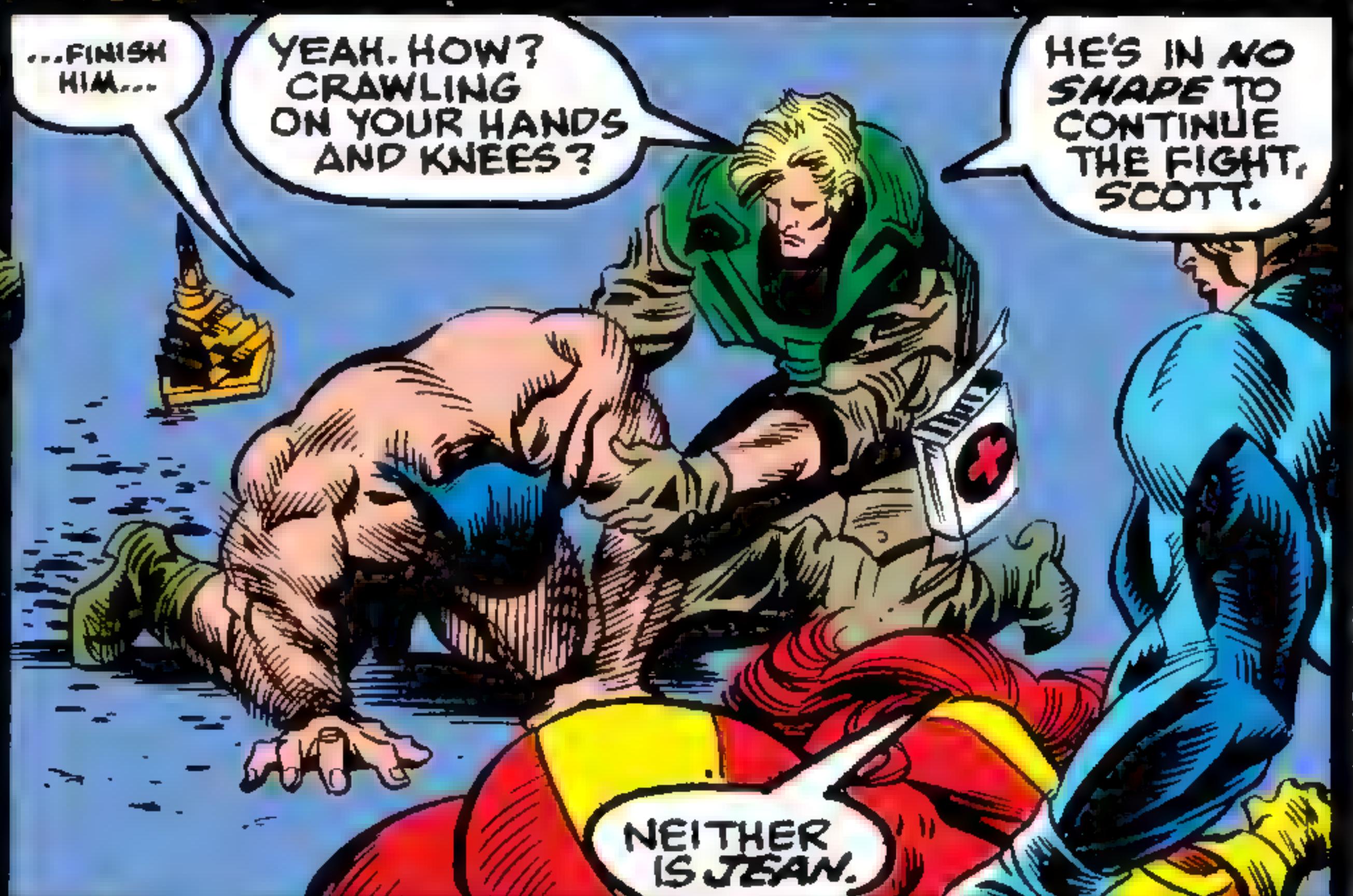


AND, IN THE SILENCE AFTERWARDS...

JEAN...?

HOW... HOW IS SHE...?

ALIVE.



MUCH AS I HATE TA ADMIT IT, BUB, YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

TAKE THE COMMUNICATOR, AND RENDEZVOUS WITH THE BEAST AT SAFEPPOINT B. ALEX AND I'LL GO AFTER HODGE.

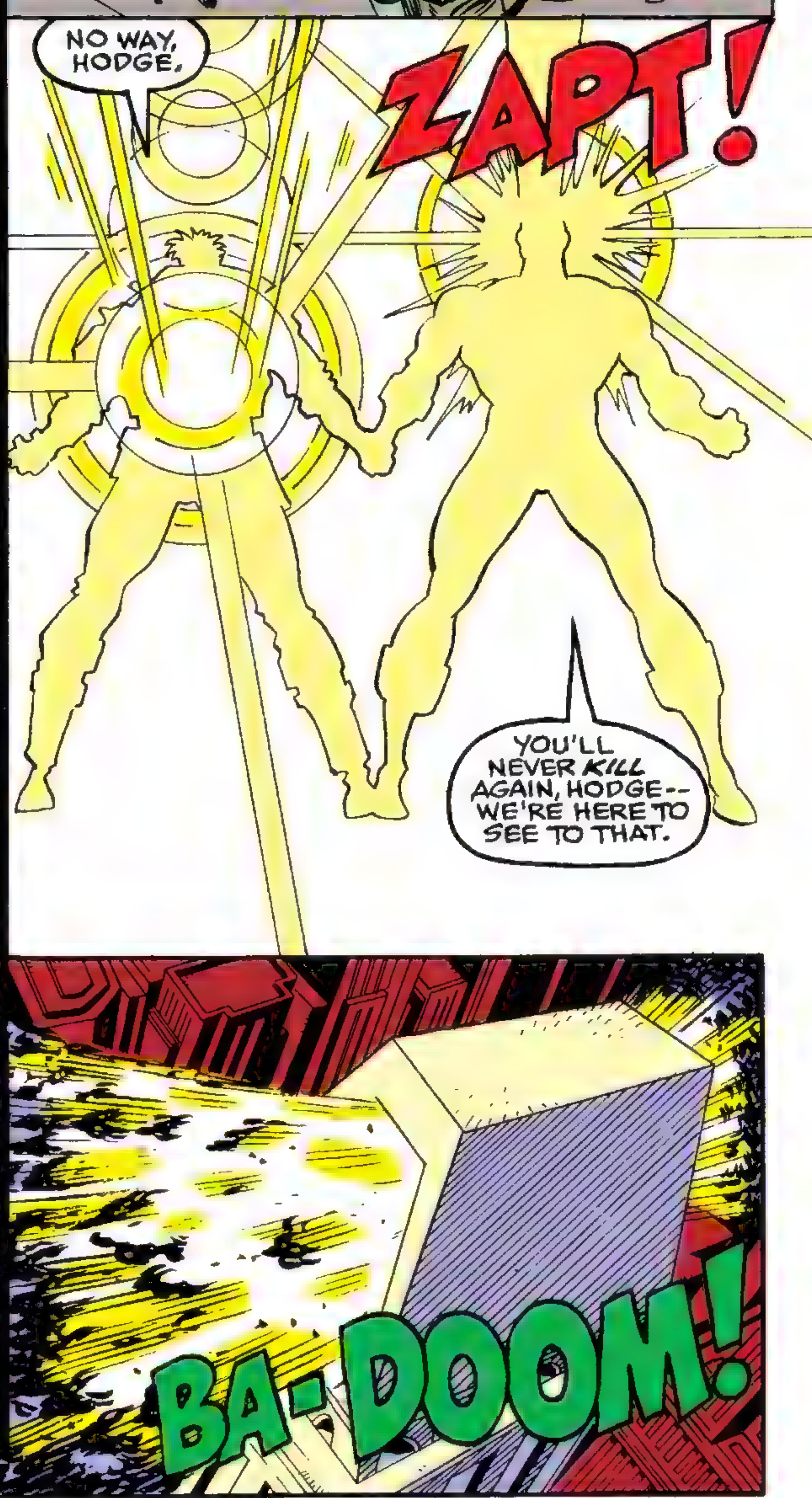
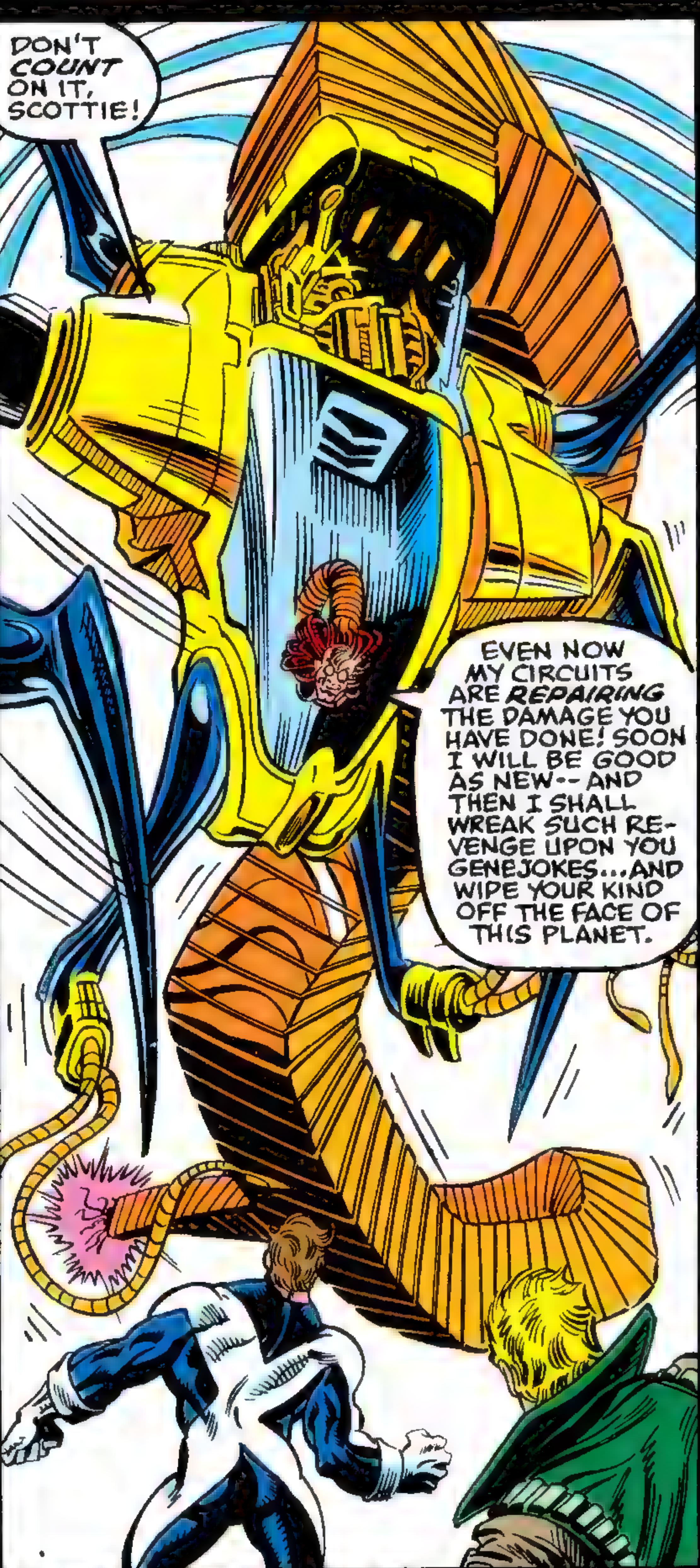
TAKE CARE OF JEAN AND THE OTHERS FOR ME, WOLVERINE, GET THEM OUT OF HERE. KEEP THEM SAFE.

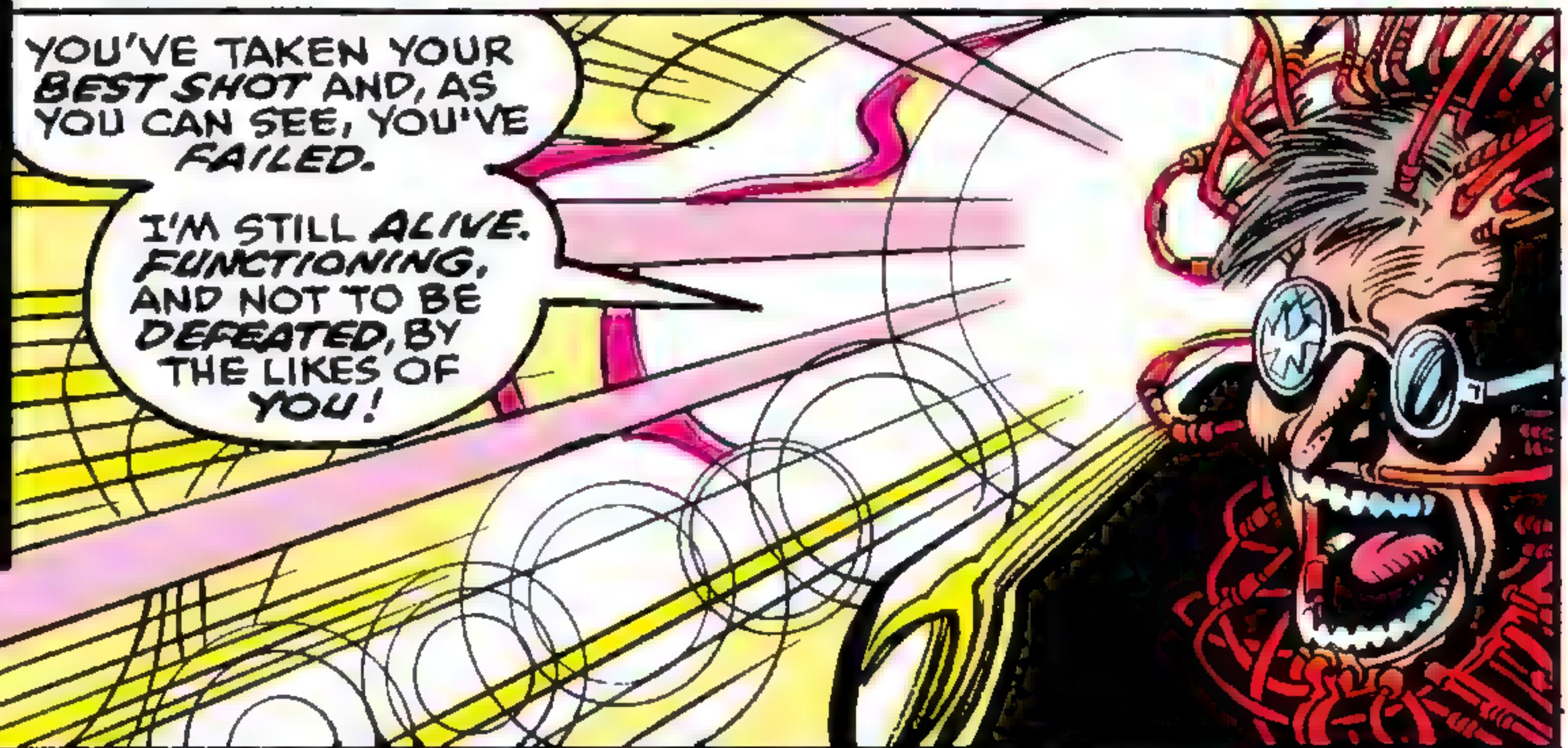
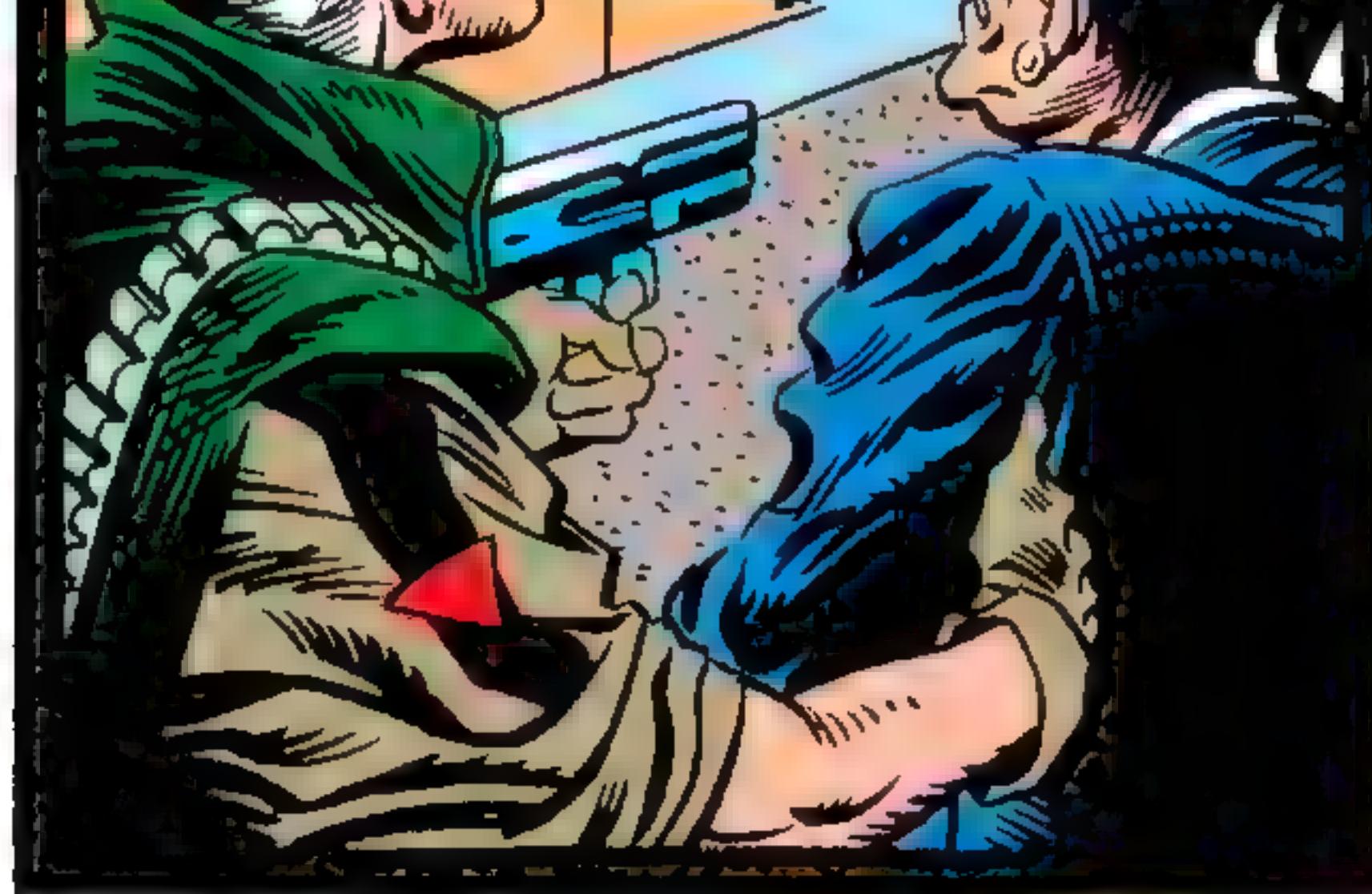
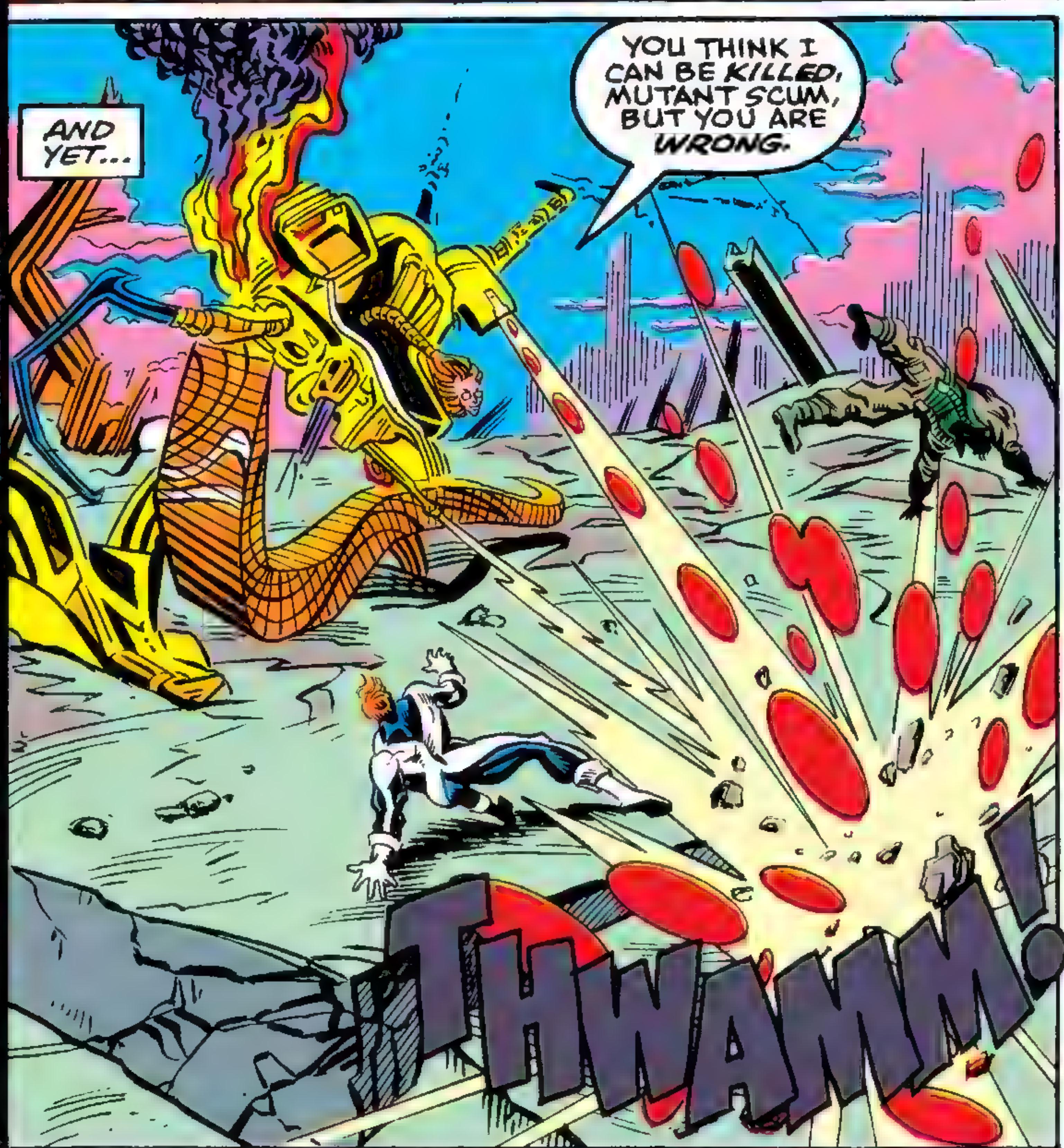
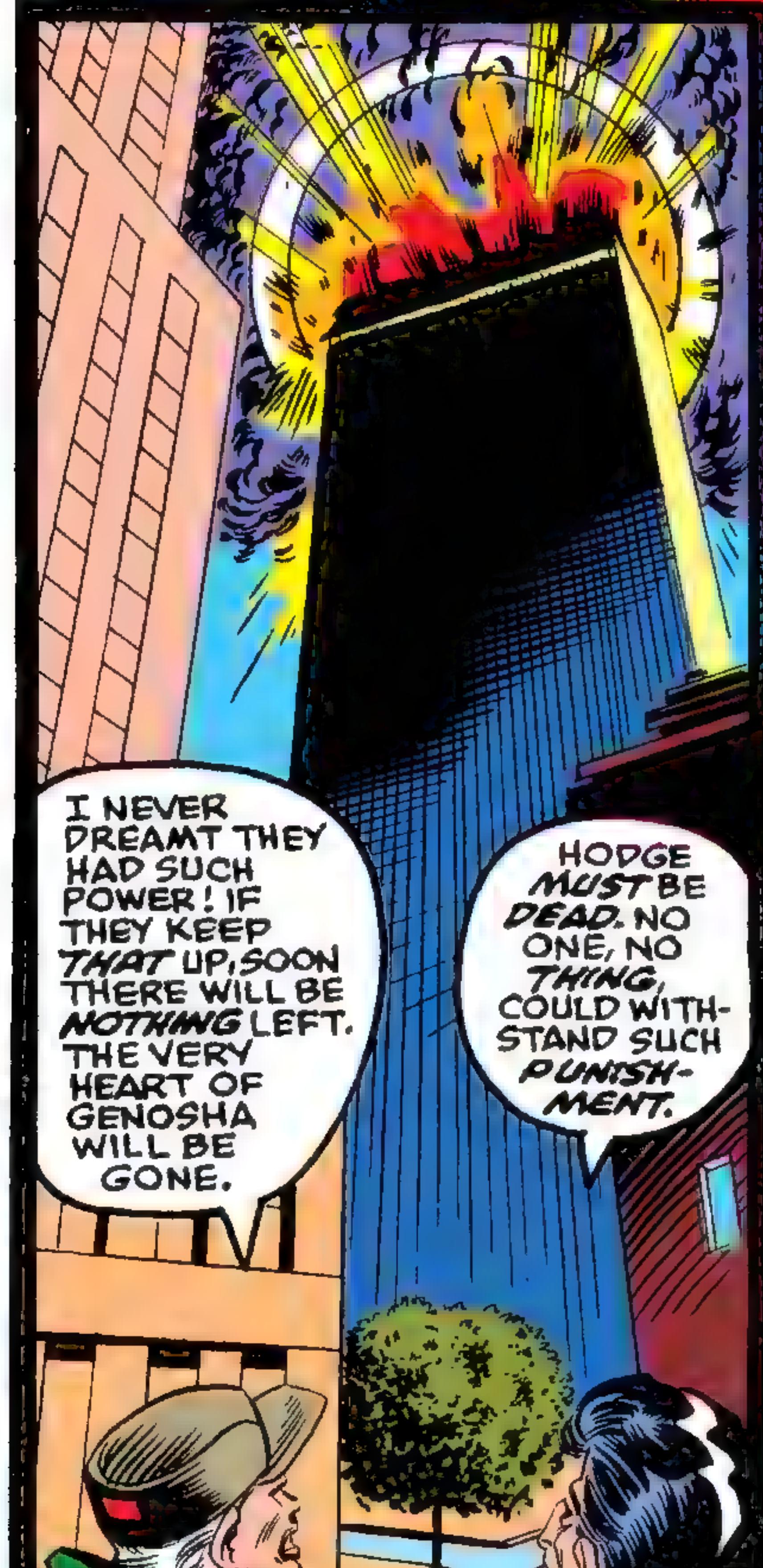
THEY'RE IN YOUR HANDS...



AND MOMENTS LATER,  
ON THE PINNACLE OF  
THE CITADEL...

IT'S OVER,  
HODGE, ADMIT IT!  
THE X-MEN ARE  
FREE--OUR POWERS  
RESTORED. YOUR  
"AGENDA" IS  
FINISHED!





HIT ME  
WITH THE FULL  
FORCE OF YOUR  
POWERS...

SIZKRAK!

...TEAR  
MY BODY  
INTO  
SCRAP  
METAL...

SZBAM!

NO MATTER WHAT  
WE DO TO HIM, HE  
JUST KEEPS ON  
TALKING!

ZGRASH!

...AND STILL  
I WILL LIVE  
TO DESTROY  
YOU!

THERE'S  
NOTHING YOU  
CAN DO TO  
SILENCE  
ME!

I AM YOUR WORST  
NIGHTMARE, FOR I HAVE  
MADE A DEAL WITH A  
DEMON AND CANNOT  
DIE.

EVEN YOUR OWN  
DEATH WILL NOT  
PROTECT YOU.

IN MY HATRED  
I WILL PURSUE  
YOU...

...EVEN BEYOND  
THE GRAVE.

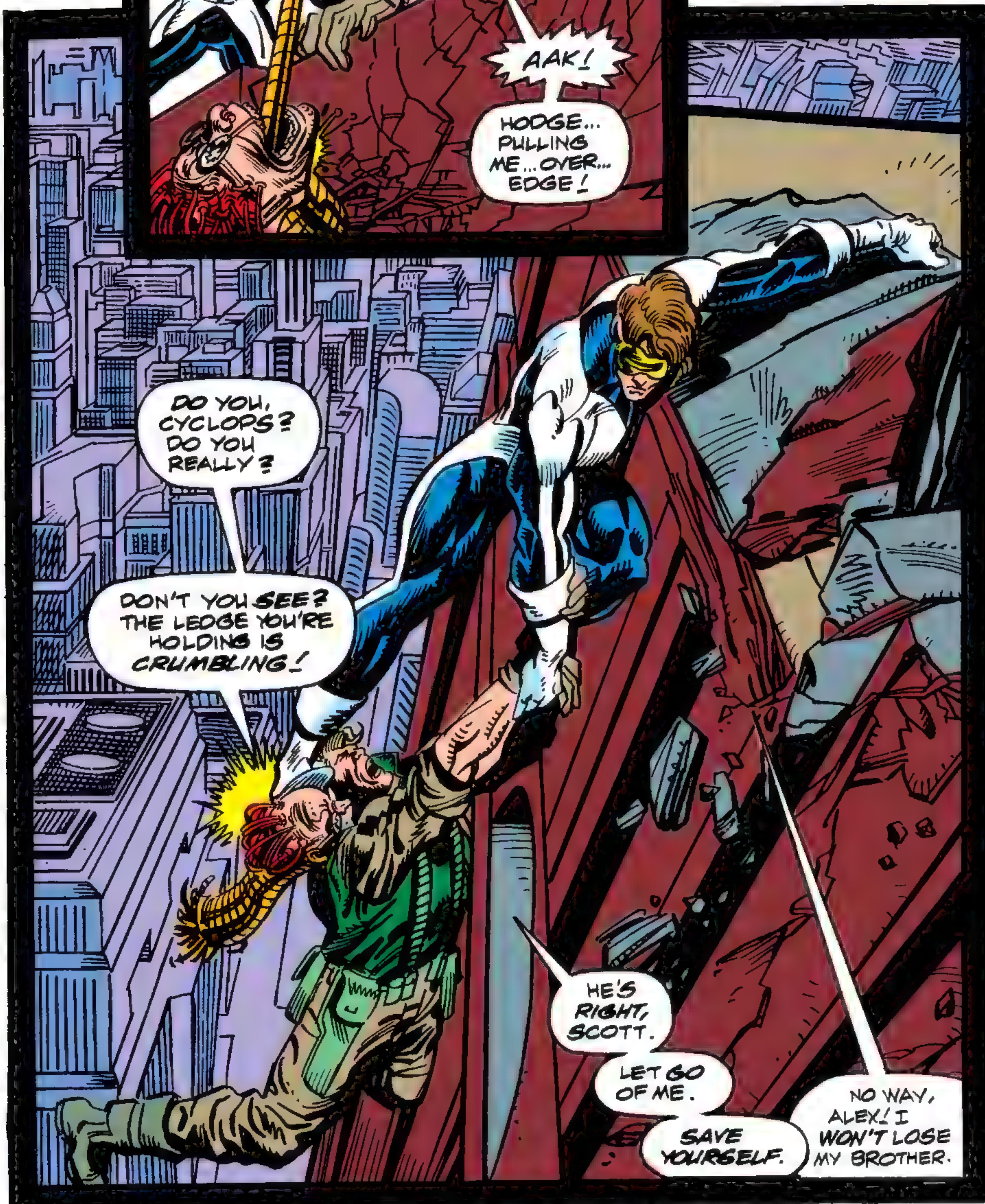
DON'T COUNT  
ON IT, HODGE. YOU  
MAY BE OUR OWN  
PRIVATE  
NIGHTMARE...

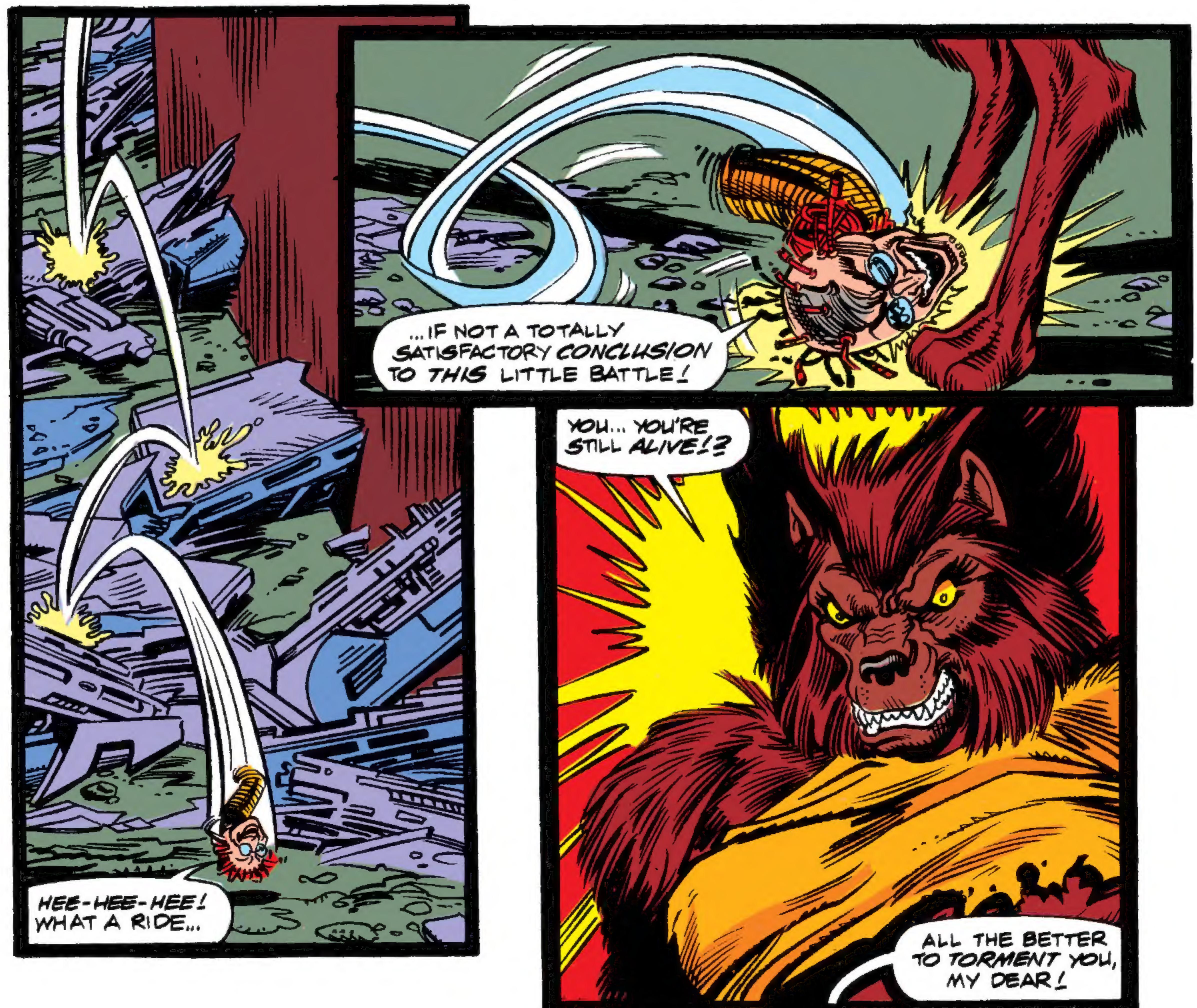
ZAPT!

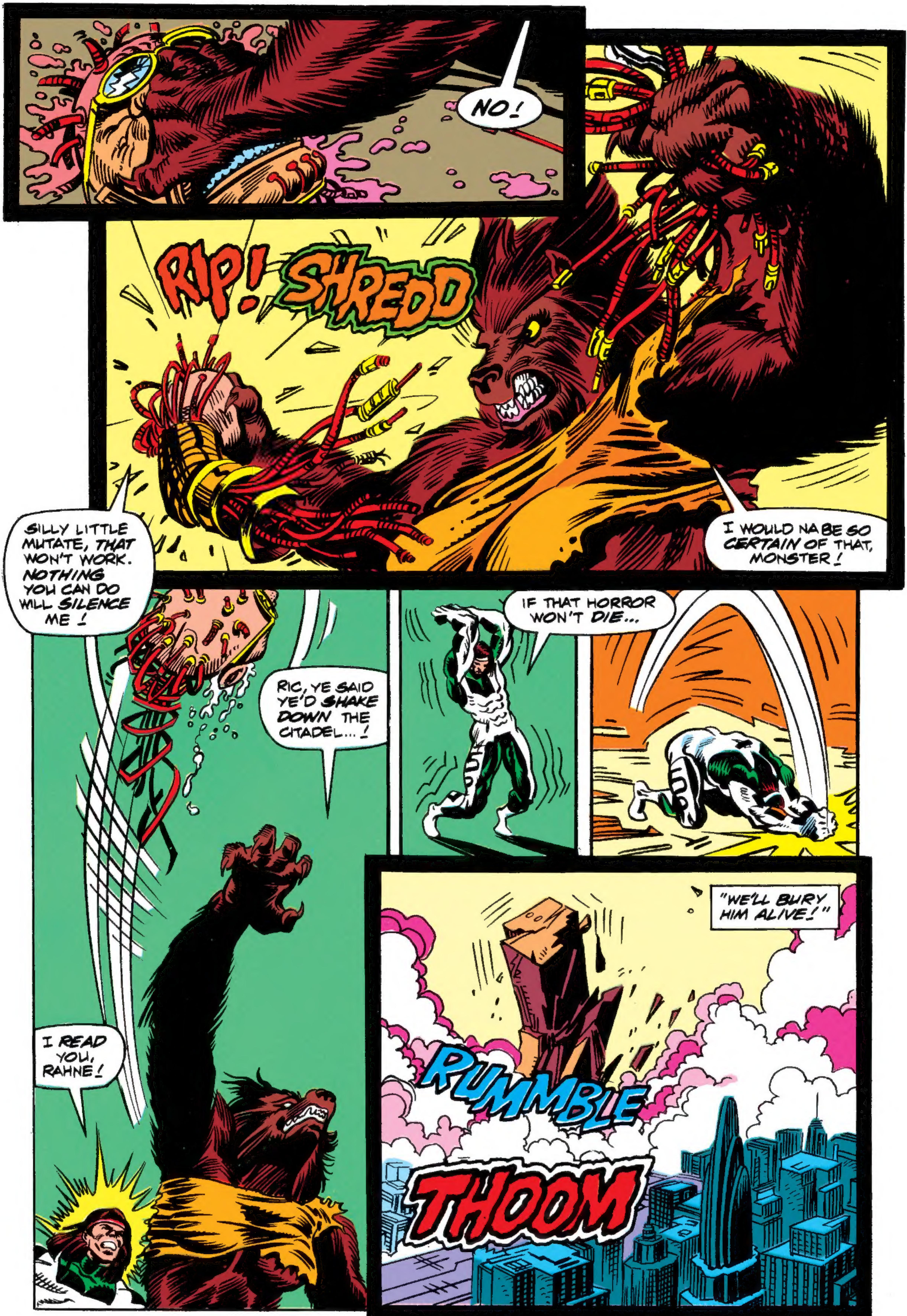
...BUT  
IT'S TIME TO  
WAKE UP!

KNOCKED HIM  
OVER THE EDGE!  
HE MUST HAVE  
FALLEN 160 STORIES.  
NOTHING CAN HAVE  
SURVIVED--

SCOTT!  
WE DID IT!







SEVERAL DAYS  
LATER...

...AS A RESULT OF A  
SEVERE NERVOUS  
BREAKDOWN, GENOSHA'S  
PRESIDENT ORDERED  
THE KIDNAPPING OF  
AMERICAN CITIZENS ...

...THUS FLOUTING  
INTERNATIONAL  
LAW AND CAUSING  
THE DEATH OF ONE  
OF HER CAPTIVES.

GENOSHA'S MILITARY  
HAS OVERTHROWN  
HER AND TEMPORARILY  
SEIZED CONTROL OF  
THE GOVERNMENT,  
PENDING LAWFUL  
ELECTIONS.

PRESIDENT RENEAU  
IS IN A HIGH SECURITY  
MENTAL INSTITUTION  
PENDING TRIAL AS  
SOON AS SHE IS  
DEEMED CAPABLE.

WHICH WILL BE NEVER.  
A SPEECH FILLED WITH  
HALF-TRUTHS, ANDERSON,  
TO COVER YOUR DIRTY  
LITTLE WORLD.

HALF-TRUTHS WHICH  
WILL PROTECT OUR  
MUTATES FROM OUTSIDE  
EXPLOITATION.

I'LL BE STAYING, CHIEF  
MAGISTRATE, TO MAKE  
CERTAIN THAT THE  
MUTATES ARE NO LONGER  
EXPLOITED FROM WITHIN.

I'M  
STAYING,  
ALSO!

YOU?  
RAHNE...  
WHY--?

I'M A MUTATE NOW,  
RIC, AND MY PLACE  
IS HERE... WITH  
THESE PEOPLE.

I NEED TO HELP  
THEM... AND TO TRY  
TO INSURE THAT  
SOME GOOD COMES  
OF THE HORROR THAT  
WAS DONE TO ME... AND  
TO THOSE OTHERS.

BOOM-BOOM,  
YOU AND RIC  
TAKE WARLOCK'S  
ASHES...  
SPRINKLE THEM  
ON DOUG'S GRAVE  
FOR ME...!

WE WILL, RAHNE.  
I KNOW IT'S WHAT  
HE WOULD HAVE  
WANTED.

DAYS LATER, ON THE GROUNDS OF A CEMETERY IN SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK, THE MEMBERS OF THE X-MEN, X-FACTOR, AND THE NEW MUTANTS STAND IN FUNERAL GARB TO SAY A FINAL FAREWELL TO ONE OF THEIR OWN...

GOODBYE, WARLOCK. YOU'RE WITH DOUG NOW ...YOUR BESTFRIEND.

THEY TOLD ME HOW, WHEN DOUG DIED, YOU COULDN'T ACCEPT IT AND YOU EVEN TRIED TO GIVE UP ALL YOUR ENERGY...

...FOR DOUG TO ABSORB, AND COME BACK TO LIFE AGAIN.

BUT WHEN WE WERE IN DANGER OF DEATH, YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK TWICE...

IT DIDN'T WORK. DOUG IS DEAD.

...YOU GAVE YOUR LIFE AS WILLINGLY FOR US, AS YOU WOULD HAVE TO SAVE DOUG.

GOODBYE, SELFRIEND. WE'RE GOING TO MISS YOU.

YOU AND DOUG REST IN PEACE.

A COUNTRY HAS BEEN FREED FROM SLAVERY, BUT AT A TERRIBLE COST.

I ONLY HOPE THAT RAHNE IS RIGHT, AND THAT A GREATER GOOD WILL CONTINUE TO BE SERVED BY WARLOCK'S SACRIFICE...

DOUGLAS RAHNE

BENEATH THE AZURE SKY, THE MOUND OF ASHES SEEMS TO FLASH IN ANSWER.

IS IT MERELY THE SUNLIGHT GLINTING ON METALLIC DUST... OR THE PROMISE OF SOMETHING MORE?